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A general view of the excellence of the BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

With a ſhort refutation of Dr PRICE's *Republican principles.* [101.]

OUR preſent unhappy diſputes with America, and the open rebellion excited in that part of the Britiſh empire, are not only a ſtrong inducement, but render it in ſome degree a duty, to examine with more than ordinary attention, the nature and principles of the Britiſh conſtitution.

But the excellence of that conſtitution is ſeldom repreſented in a true light, whilſt its admirers, miſled by ſpecious appearances, have generally overlooked, or miſtaken, the true principles, and wiſe arrangement, of the political ſyſtem.

The ſpecious idea of liberty has ſo warmed the imaginations even of well-meaning perſons, as to induce them to think, that the exerciſe of the Britiſh government was in the hands of the people; that with their conſent laws were made, and taxes were paid, which ſome would repreſent as free gifts of the people.

But nothing can be more remote from the truth than ſuch opinions, nor indeed more derogatory to the wiſdom and excellence of the conſtitution; which will evidently appear from a few reflections upon the nature and deſign of civil government.

It is needleſs to prove, that in a ſtate of nature men could not be happy, as they could have no ſecurity for life, liberty, and property, or any thing elſe upon which their happineſs depended.

To obtain this ſecurity, it was therefore neceſſary to enter into civil aſſociations, by means of which we might receive ſufficient protection, not only againſt the injuſtice of our fellow-citizens, but alſo of our neighbouring ſtates.

For this purpoſe it was neceſſary to give up a great part of our natural liberty, and veſt the power of the whole people in one moral perſon, whether one man, a few men, or the majority of the people, ſo far as that was practicable. And this is the ſource of the three ſimple forms of government, monarchy, ariſtocracy, and democracy.

But experience has fully diſcovered, that all theſe ſimple forms are liable to great abuſe: Monarchy too eaſily degenerates into deſpotiſm; Ariſtocracy commonly produces ſeveral deſpots in place of one; Democracy is the moſt ſpecious form, and may therefore perhaps be conſidered with more attention.

The Athenian ſtate exhibits an example of the pureſt democracy which hiſtory acquaints us with; for the ſenate of Athens had much leſs influence over the people, than either that of Rome or Sparta.

Every thing of moment was done at Athens by an aſſembly of the people, which ſometimes conſiſted of thirty thouſand perſons. One of majority was ſufficient to eſtabliſh a tax. But ſurely this could never render the minority greater ſlaves than the majority; as they were all equally ſubjected to one general law, a law preſumed to be founded in the original political contract.

But let us conſider what could be expected from ſuch a democracy as that of Athens. Was it poſſible that the great body of the people could underſtand the true intereſts of the ſtate, which often require the profoundeſt ſkill of the wiſeſt politicians? Could we expect from a fickle and inconſtant multitude, that conſiſtency of meaſures ſo neceſſary to the ſupport of any government? We might as well expect, that a ſhip in her voyage ſhould ſteer one right courſe, though during it the winds ſhould blow from all the quarters of the heavens. Such a conſtitution was likewiſe adverſe to diſpatch; a matter often of the greateſt conſequence.

Indeed we are ſufficiently informed from hiſtory, that the Athenians were violent in their proceedings, fickle in their opinions, and raſh and imprudent in their ſchemes. Eaſily influenced by their demagogues, they frequently put to death, or diſgraced, their braveſt and worthieſt citizens. They very often repented, and put to death thoſe by whom they had been miſled.

Elated by proſperous ſucceſs, they engaged in raſh and extravagant ſchemes. In the midſt of the Peloponneſian war, (contrary to the advice of the wiſe and the conſiderate), they ſent the ſtrength and flower of their army and fleet to Sicily, a diſtant iſland, in which they had no manner of intereſt; and that expedition proving unfortunate, ſoon brought about the diſſolution of the ſtate.

The ſtrength of Athens was chiefly owing to its maritime commerce, to which they were impelled by the natural ſterility of the ſoil. Its glory and ſupport aroſe from its happineſs in having great numbers of excellent citizens, whoſe illuſtrious virtues adorn the annals of mankind; many of whom however were moſt ungratefully exiled by their oſtraciſm.

The proper expedient to remedy the defects, and prevent the abuſes, of the ſeveral ſimple forms of government, could only ariſe from a happy compoſition and juſt arrangement of the principles of each.

This is the caſe of the Britiſh conſtitution, whether from the wiſdom of our anceſtors, or rather the peculiar bleſſing of Heaven.

The popular ſhare of the legiſlative power is by the Britiſh ſyſtem taken out of the hands of the people, and veſted entirely in their repreſentatives; and that with the greateſt propriety. For the people, with regard to the great affairs of government, are much in the ſame caſe as a perſon under age, who muſt have guardians to manage his eſtate, not according to his particular inclinations, but his real intereſt. And as the repreſentatives are preſumed to be choſen, as directed by the writ of election, for their ſuperior worth and abilities, (of which the electors may be very proper judges), by this means the wiſdom and virtue of a few, are put in place of the levity and weakneſs of the many.

Thus it is certain that Britiſh laws are made without the conſent of the people. For in the firſt place, the right of election is placed in a ſmall number of the people, a number, however, ſufficient for the ſecurity of the whole. And further, the perſons choſen are repreſenta-

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tives of the whole Britiſh ſtate, and not merely of their particular electors; and are bound, as well by the true principles of government, as the writ of election, to prefer the intereſt of the whole to that of their particular diſtricts; in conſequence of which, acts of parliament are equally valid whether made agreeable or contrary to the inſtructions of conſtituents. But it will be aſked, if laws are made without the conſent of the people, what ſecurity have they for their rights and privileges? They have a very great ſecurity; becauſe members of parliament are choſen from among the commons, and that by ſuch a body of the people as is moſt intereſted to ſupport the conſtitution; they are equally ſubjected to the laws; and upon a new election may be changed if their conſtituents are diſſatisfied with their conduct.

On the other hand, if laws required the conſent of the body of the people, as their general meaſures would diſcover weakneſs and incapacity, it is more than probable they would withdraw or withhold taxes neceſſary to the ſupport of public credit, and conſequently of the ſtate, the only foundation of all their valuable intereſts.

Thus it evidently appears, that in Britain, laws (whether relative to taxes or any other object) are made without the conſent of the people; and that it is an eſſential part of the wiſdom and goodneſs of the conſtitution that it is ſo, as thereby the good of the whole people, which is the great end of civil government, is moſt effectually obtained.

I ſhall now make a very few obſervations upon the other branches of the ſovereign power, from which the ſtate derives a high degree of dignity and ſtrength.

The peculiar prerogatives beſtowed upon the King, elevate him high above the other orders of the ſtate. Inveſted with the ſplendid enſigns of royalty, he is rendered reſpectable in the eyes of the people. Poſſeſſed of the power of pardoning condemned perſons, he often becomes an aſylum to the unfortunate. But above all, entruſted with the executive branch of the ſovereign power, as he thereby extends his influence and authority, ſo he gives that neceſſary diſpatch to public affairs which it is vain to expect from a purely popular government.

The nobility form the ſecond order of the ſtate; and their hereditary honours, perſonal privileges, and ſupreme juriſdiction, all properly ſupported by their extenſive domains, add a peculiar luſtre to that branch of the legiſlature, which thereby communicates ſtrength and dignity to the whole.

As they derive their honours from the Crown, they are tied by duty and gratitude to ſupport is prerogatives; and as their legiſlative authority muſt ſtand or fall with that of the Commons, they are as firmly bound to maintain the privileges of the people.

As there are many advantages ariſing from this reſpectable order of the ſtate, ſo perhaps it is none of the leaſt of them, that as they are interpoſed betwixt the King and the Commons, when by theſe any meaſures either doubtful or improper are inſiſted upon, ſuch meaſures muſt be canvaſſed in conferences with the Upper Houſe, whereby an immediate acceſs to the King is prevented, which might iſſue either in a diminution of the regal dignity, or an alienation of the affections of the people.

From this imperfect view of the Britiſh conſtitution, it muſt appear, that by a proper ſelection and juſt compoſition of what is good in the three ſimple forms of government, that ſecurity which is the great end of civil ſociety, is moſt effectually attained.

From ſuch a pure ſource the beſt laws and inſtitutions (ſuch as the *Habeas corpus* act, and trial by juries) may be expected to flow; and the wiſdom of a few is a much firmer foundation to ſupport the rights of mankind, than the ſuffrages of the many.

I ſhall now make a very ſhort compariſon of the government of the American colonies with that of the Britiſh conſtitution.—That theſe colonies are the ſubjects of the Britiſh ſtate, and not merely of the King of Britain, as they themſelves would ſeem to have it, I think can admit of no doubt, upon the true principles of government. But this matter I ſhall conſider at preſent only as it influences their particular form of government.

The government of the colonies is by ſome repreſented as the Britiſh government in miniature. But this is a very improper repreſentation. For though in the outward form there is an apparent reſemblance, yet in the juſt balance of power (in which the excellence of the Britiſh conſtitution conſiſts) there is the

wideſt difference. The popular form of government has too great an aſcendant in the colonies, whether we ſuppoſe the council choſen by the King or the people, (and the firſt caſe is certainly the beſt); yet as the members of it are from the body of the people, there is too near a connection betwixt them.

The members of the council have no diſtinguiſhing honours, rights, or privileges, and are but mere ſhadows of the reſpectable order of nobility in Britain, who are ever diſtinguiſhed from the commons, whereas the former ſoon return to the body of the people out of which they were taken.

The reſemblance of Governors of Provinces to the King of Britain, is perhaps more imperfect ſtill. Deſtitute of the ſplendor, power, and authority, of a Britiſh King, they too eaſily loſe that reſpect with the people, which is yet neceſſary to the proper execution of the high truſt repoſed in them.

From theſe few obſervations it is evident, that in the American government there is too great a weight of power thrown into the ſcale of the people, whereby they are expoſed to all the dangers incident to a purely popular ſtate, and they are not to be compared to the Britiſh conſtitution, by which the power of the people is wiſely abridged and counterbalanced.

Experience indeed has fully ſhown the great imperfection of the American governments, and the miſeries flowing from a purely popular ſtate. Their governors are inſulted, their judges and juries are intimidated by the people, and their aſſemblies themſelves not a little overawed. Liberty of ſpeech is even taken away: if one breathe a ſentiment different from the miſtaken notions that may be in vogue, he is expoſed to the rage of the populace, who ſpare neither his perſon nor his property; and the civil magiſtrate has no authority either to protect the one, or puniſh the other.

The great abuſe to which a government of ſuch uncontroulable liberty is liable, is repreſented by Mr Rollin (when ſpeaking of the unjuſt condemnation and death of Phocion, one of the greateſt ornaments of the Athenian ſtate) in true though very diſmal colours.

There is ſufficient foundation (ſays that author) for the ſentiments of Pliny and Plutarch, who declare, that the people, when they are either deſtitute of guides, or no longer liſten to their admonitions, and when they have thrown off the reins by which they once were checked, and are entirely abandoned to their impetuoſity and caprice, ought to be conſidered as a blind, intractable, and cruel monſter, ready to launch in a moment into the moſt fatal and oppoſite extremes, and infinitely more formidable than the moſt inhuman tyrants.

What can be expected from ſuch a tribunal? When people reſolve to be guided by nothing but mere paſſion; to have no regard to decorum; and to run headlong into an open violation of all laws; the beſt, the juſteſt, and moſt innocent of mankind, will ſink under an implacable and prevailing cabal. This Socrates experienced almoſt a hundred years before Phocion periſhed by the ſame fate.

Setting therefore aſide the point of right, it would ſeem to be the happieſt circumſtance for the American Colonies to be ſubjects of the Britiſh ſtate, and not merely of the King of Britain; for the ſtate alone could afford them protection againſt foreign force, and ſupport the authority of their internal government.

The only objection that can be made to this is, that the Britiſh legiſlature, partial to the parent-ſtate, might lay unequal taxes upon the American Colonies. But this appears to be but a groundleſs apprehenſion: there is no ſuch inequality at home, though certain counties have peculiar productions liable to taxation; and if juſtice ſhould not, yet the riches and power of America would prove a ſufficient ſecurity againſt any ſuch inequality.

From the experience we have had of late of the ungovernable licentiouſneſs of the people, it would ſeem further neceſſary to have ſome improvement made of the internal frame of government, whereby the authority of the civil power may be raiſed above the inſults of the populace, without which the happy ends of government can never be obtained; eſtabliſhing at the ſame time a ſufficient ſecurity againſt deſpotiſm on the one hand, as well as anarchy and ochlocracy on the other: But this is a matter which will require all the wiſdom and attention of the Britiſh parliaments.

The preceding reflections are what have occurred to me upon as impartial a

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view of the ſubject as it was poſſible for me to take, without being influenced by any of the numerous pamphlets lately writ upon the ſame, few of which have fallen into my hands. But ſince writing thus far, I have ſeen Dr Price's Obſervations upon Civil Liberty; and as I have the misfortune to differ widely from ſuch a reſpectable writer, I ſhall take the liberty ſhortly to examine his general principles.

The Doctor admits, that the great end of civil government is the happineſs of mankind. He at the ſame time, however, maintains, that civil liberty can only take place where the people is ſelf-governed; that is, where every member of the ſtate can give his ſuffrage in perſon. He admits, indeed, that in large ſtates, where this is impracticable, a diminution of liberty muſt neceſſarily ariſe, as in this caſe ſubſtitutes or repreſentatives may be intruſted with the powers of legiſlation under proper reſtrictions; and that hereby all the purpoſes of government would be anſwered, and, at the ſame time, every right of human nature be ſecured.

And he affirms, that every ſtate in which a body of men repreſenting the people make not an eſſential part of the legiſlature, is in ſlavery.

From this, and what he afterwards affirms, that liberty is one of the unalienable rights of mankind, it muſt follow, that every ſuch ſtate muſt be unjuſt and oppreſſive; and conſequently may be lawfully diſſolved by a violent attack of the people; which muſt be honoured as true patriotiſm, and not branded with the odious name of *rebellion*. And this is the caſe of almoſt every ſtate upon the whole ſurface of the globe, moſt of thoſe called republics not excepted.

To me it appears very extraordinary, that the ingenious author of the Obſervations was not ſenſible of the contradictions and inconſiſtency betwixt the leading principles upon which he proceeds. The happineſs of mankind is undoubtedly the great end of civil government. Such government originates, however, in an abridgement of liberty, the ſmalleſt of which is where the minority is ſubjected to the majority. If experience ſhall point out the great defects of ſuch a form of government, eſpecially in large ſtates; then, for the ſame reaſon that natural liberty was given up, this form muſt alſo be relinquiſhed, and the exerciſe of power placed in fewer hands. This has occaſioned various models of government, according to the different circumſtances, diſpoſitions, and opinions, of the people. None of which, however, I think, can be unjuſt in their origin, however they may become ſo by abuſe. Even the government of a monarch is not unjuſt in itſelf; and would indeed be the beſt of any if the virtue of one man could be truſted.

The Byzantines, from the high opinion they had of the wiſdom and virtue of Miltiades, choſe him for their King. In this they were not deceived; they enjoyed an uncommon degree of happineſs under his wiſe and equitable government. And though, with Mr Pope, I ſhould reckon Timoleon glorious from his brother's blood; yet, if any Byzantine ſhould have aſſaſſinated Miltiades, merely becauſe he was King, I would have conſidered it as a moſt execrable act of rebellion, and deſerving of the ſevereſt puniſhment.

I ſhall now conſider the repreſentation which the Doctor allows of, though a very conſiderable abridgement of liberty. To preſerve liberty as much as poſſible, he qualifies this repreſentation chiefly with two conditions; that the repreſentatives be choſen for a ſhort term, and that they be obliged to obſerve the inſtructions of their conſtituents.

With regard to the firſt, I ſhall not enter perhaps into an obſcure diſcuſſion, whether an annual, triennial, or ſeptennial parliament, is moſt eligible. I incline to think, that the rights of the people may be ſufficiently ſecured by a ſeptennial parliament; and therefore that ſuch is to be preferred, in reſpect of the many irregularities and bad effects of a general election, which need not here be enumerated. The effect of inſtructions ſeems to be moſt material.

I have already obſerved, that from the nature of the Britiſh conſtitution, repreſentatives are not bound to be directed by the inſtructions of their conſtituents.

I ſhall now ſhortly explain the wiſdom and propriety of that part of the conſtitution.

It is certainly the duty of repreſentatives in parliament, to conſult, not chiefly the inclinations of their conſtituents, but the great intereſts of the ſtate in general; in order to which they muſt know what theſe intereſts are. This knowledge they cannot receive from their

their reſpective conſtituents, many of whom are abundantly ignorant of them. A juſt and proper information can only be obtained from the deliberations and reaſonings of gentlemen of abilities aſſembled from the different parts of the kingdom, and from which alone they can form a true judgement of the real intereſt of the nation, which they ought invariably to purſue.

If, with the Doctor, we ſhould ſuppoſe the inſtructions of conſtituents binding upon their repreſentatives, the greateſt abſurdity might follow. Let us ſuppoſe a new tax neceſſary; and that fifty, or even a ſmaller number of members, received inſtructions for a particular tax, but that all others were divided in ſmaller numbers; ſtill the firſt would prevail, though perhaps all the others, if left at liberty, might have united for a very different tax. Thus a ſmall minority might give law to the great body, even in contradiction of the Doctor's favourite doctrine.

His principles, indeed, would create a wheel within a wheel, a moderate and proper repreſentation of the people to be controlled by the whole body. This would at once put an end to true government, and introduce univerſal confuſion in its place.

We ought never to loſe ſight of the true end of government, viz. the happineſs of the governed; and our natural liberty ought to be diminiſhed as far as this requires; juſt as in an army, the General muſt have an abſolute command, and a proper ſubordination be maintained through the whole, otherwiſe it is vain to expect victory over their enemies.

In Britain the power of the people is fully veſted in a repreſentative body, which is not the ten thouſandth part of the whole; and thus only good laws can be expected, the proper ſource of national happineſs. But according to Dr Price's principles, the people of Britain are in a ſtate of ſlavery becauſe they are not ſelf-governed; and that conſtitution, which we are fond to conſider as our peculiar glory, and the envy of foreigners, is no other than a political engine of ſervitude and oppreſſion.

This abſurd conſequence is in itſelf ſufficient to deſtroy the principles from which it manifeſtly flows.

British civil liberty does not conſiſt in this, that Britons have an immediate ſhare in the legiſlative power, but that they are under the government of wiſe and equal laws, and can do what they pleaſe, except in ſo far as they are reſtrained by ſuch laws; and that by the wiſdom of the conſtitution they are equally ſecured againſt the miſeries of anarchy, and the terrors of deſpotiſm.

Theſe matters appear to me ſo clear, that though they are capable of great illuſtration, yet I think it unneceſſary.

I ſhall then proceed to conſider the ſtate of the American Colonies as dependent upon the Britiſh legiſlature. In this caſe, theſe colonies, ſays the Doctor, (ſect. 3. p. 19.) are in a ſtate of ſlavery, upon the erroneous principle, which has already been refuted, that they are not ſelf-governed. Are not Britons, as well as other nations, capable of coloniza-tion? This is in many caſes, if not a privilege, at leaſt a great benefit. Should a number of Britons propoſe to make a ſettlement in an uncultivated country, and for that purpoſe ſhould aſk the neceſſary protection and aſſiſtance of their parent-ſtate, promiſing at the ſame time ſtill to continue in ſubjection to it; and in acknowledgement of ſuch ſubjection ſhould take charters from the legiſlative power, or the King, as the firſt branch of it; would ſuch ſtipulation be unlawful? It is impoſſible to ſhew upon what principle this could be affirmed.

But let me further ſuppoſe, that theſe colonies ſhould, for a long tract of years, continue in an acknowledged ſubjection to their parent-ſtate, receiving laws from it relative to their internal police, as well as external commerce, though not inconſiſtent with their charters; whilſt at the ſame time the Britiſh legiſlature, upon the faith of their being true and proper ſubjects, have expended immenſe ſums of money in their protection and encouragement, and thereby greatly exhauſted its proper ſtrength.

In this caſe could theſe colonies, becauſe they thought they had ſufficient ſtrength to do ſo, have right to claim a ſtate of total independence, in contradiction to their original duty of ſubmiſſion and allegiance, and contrary to that faith eſtabliſhed by an uncontroverted ſubjection for much more than a century, in conſequence of which the mother-country has exhauſted herſelf in cheriſhing and ſupporting them as her proper ſubjects, bound therefore in juſtice to ſubmit to all her equitable laws, and not merely

merely to a grateful acknowledgement of a humane and benevolent conduct? For humanity carried to such an extent, would have been folly, and indeed great injustice to the resident subjects of the original country.

But then it will be said, must the colonies submit to such laws, and pay such taxes, as the British legislature may think fit to impose, even in an arbitrary manner? By no means; the end of government is the good, the protection, and support of the subjects, and not their destruction. If the subjects, therefore, are made to grone under a severe and continued oppression, if their petitions are unavailable, they have a right of resistance. In a monarchy, indeed, this is commonly very difficult. But in the American Colonies it will, at least, soon become very easy. Prudence, therefore, as well as justice, will oblige the parent-state to abstain from every species of real oppression.

If we are to regard the Americans not as subjects, but merely as debtors, they are behoved to retire to some other wilds of America, there to enjoy their freedom, and abandon to us all their cultivated lands; which would hardly be sufficient to reimburse us of our expence upon their account.

As I think it cannot admit of the least doubt, that the Americans are the true and proper subjects of Great Britain, so I am clearly of opinion that it is their real interest to be so.

The nature of their particular governments very much exposes them to an ochlocracy, a corruption of government, which though it cannot establish itself so firmly as despotism, yet is more universal in its operation, and the fury of which hardly any good subject can escape, as experience has too much verified in that unhappy country. The power therefore and authority of the British state may contribute much to check this disorder; though, as has been already observed, something further may still be necessary.

With regard to the right of taxation, I shall shortly observe, that that right is an essential branch of the sovereign power, as money is absolutely necessary to carry on the affairs of government. The legislature therefore must be the primary judge in this matter; though, at the same time, prudence will direct this delicate point to be so adjusted, as that on the one hand Britain may receive a just proportion for the common defence, and, on the other, America may be sufficiently secured against a rigorous or indefinite taxation.

I regret, as sincerely as Dr Price can, that impiety, luxury, and vice, which so much prevail, and seem to be upon the growing hand; and which, carried to a certain degree, must crush the firmest and wisest constitution that can be devised.

I could wish to apply to Britain the just sentiment of Horace, in an address to his country:

Diis te minorem quod geras, imperas.

And I would be happy if my countrymen could enter into the spirit of that encomium which he bestows upon the ancient Romans, That there was no nation on earth where frugality and poverty were so long in esteem.

To indulge general complaints, is an easy matter; but for every one to amend his own conduct in particular, would produce the most salutary effects.

I believe Dr Price's heart is good, but imprudence will sometimes do much more hurt, than a direct intention of ill. His political observations certainly tend to put, not the regard of justice, but arms of rebellion, into the hands of the deluded Americans, to be employed against that parent-state, which at an immense expence has nourished and supported them as her own proper subjects.

I cannot help thinking that Dr Price, upon cool reflection, must be sensible that his principles have been very erroneous; in which case it is his duty to publish a recantation and refutation of them in as strong terms as possible: without this he cannot be free of moral blame, and that in a high degree. But this (it will be said) must be very humiliating. On the contrary, I think it will be very noble. He that ruleth his spirit, is better than the mighty, and a victory over one's self is more illustrious than the most splendid external victory gained by an Alexander or a Cæsar. *Lond. Chron.*

SIR, *London, April 22.*

THough I do not consider myself obliged to answer every anonymous champion for American rebellion, who may think proper to question me; yet, as a writer in the Public Ledger of last Saturday, under the signature of *An Englishman*, has accused me of a breach of confidence, I think it necessary, in justice

juſtice to myſelf, and to prevent, if poſſible, any future interrogatories upon the ſubject, to reply to the whole of his letter. [215.]

He inquires, "If I did not know of the deſtination of the Dickenſon, previous to her departure from Philadelphia? and if I was not to receive wages from her owners?" If he means to aſk, whether I knew ſhe was bound to France? I anſwer, *Yes*; but if by the word *deſtination*, he includes her return to America with warlike ſtores, I aſſure him, that I was totally ignorant of it, till ſhe arrived in a particular latitude, where the captain had directions to open his orders, and where he himſelf received the firſt information of the purport of his voyage. With reſpect to wages, I anſwer, without the leaſt heſitation, that I certainly ſhould have expected, and indeed demanded them, as my right, if the loyalty and reſolution of my ſhipmates had not enabled me to eſcape from the tyrannical ſervice of the rebels.

I do not conceive it would be criminal to receive a compenſation for my labour under any ſituation; and in that country, I aſſure you, Sir, there are very few volunteers, except the *Commanders in Chief*.

As I have ſatisfied the writer of the letter, ſigned *An Engliſhman*, that I was entirely unacquainted with the deſtination of the Dickenſon, (agreeable to his acceptation of the word), and having exculpated myſelf from the imputation of treachery, I hope he will ſuffer me to convince him, that I ſhould not have deſerved ſo ſevere a cenſure, even if I had known the buſineſs ſhe was going upon, previous to her departure from Philadelphia. To have remonſtrated againſt the ſervice, would have ſubjected me to an immediate puniſhment, as well as to the perpetual reſentment of the people. I ſhould have been taken out of my ſhip, and forced into their army; and the profeſſion of a ſoldier can never be agreeable to a ſeamen.—The congreſs have long ſince determined, that they only are in the right; and to diſpute or deny either their wiſdom or their power, would be inſtantly conſtrued *high treaſon*. There can be no appeal from the deciſions of men, who have ſet themſelves above all law, and who boaſt no other right, but the *right of the ſtrongeſt*. Under a government ſo conſtituted, (if an aſſembly like theirs can, with propriety, be called a government), it would have been the height of madneſs to have declared my objections to the ſervice, even if I had been honoured with their confidence.

Under ſuch circumſtances, and where even the exerciſe of private opinion is denied, it would have been ſtrictly juſtifiable to have oppoſed artifice to ſtrength, and to have obtained that by cunning, which I could not by power, and to which I had an unqueſtionable right, without being forced to the neceſſity of recurring to either.—I am a ſubject of England, and bound to reverence my Sovereign, and the laws of my country. I had promiſed no allegiance to *Mr Hancock*, nor had I engaged in any act of hoſtility againſt Great Britain.—My being at Philadelphia was merely accidental.—Seamen generally go what voyage they think proper.—I preferred the American trade, and had been accuſtomed to it for theſe ſix or ſeven years.—Should I therefore engage with America in a rebellion againſt my prince? Certainly not.—Much leſs then ſhould it be expected, that force ſhould obliterate every moral ſentiment, and releaſe me from every natural and political obligation.

I did not imagine that I was bound to obey the commands of the congreſs, by being compelled to go to ſea in their ſervice. I conſidered them as rebels, from whom I had no probability of eſcaping, but by the way of France; and let every gentleman, before he paſſes ſentence upon my conduct, put himſelf exactly in my ſituation, and acting under the ſame conviction.—Happily, Sir, I had no occaſion to betray the confidence of my employers.—No truſt was repoſed in me; and I hope this will be received as a full anſwer to every queſtion that may be put; at leaſt, this is the laſt and only reply that will be made by, Sir,

Your humble ſervant,

JOHN SANDS,
Mate of the Dickenſon.

A method of deſtroying weevils.

M. de Broſſes, finding that the weevils had got among ſome of his wheat, got live lobſters, which he threw on the wheat. In four hours time the weevils came out from all parts of it, (for the fiſh were ſtill alive), and diſperſed themſelves all over the wall, in ſuch great numbers, that in many places it was quite black with them; and endeavoured to eſcape by the chinks in the wall; but at length they all periſhed.—The ſmell of this teſtaceous fiſh, particularly if they are left to ſtink, always proves fatal to theſe inſects, yet will nowiſe affect the corn.

PAR-

PARLIAMENT. [176.]

Motions, &c. in the Houſe of Commons.

A motion was made, Feb. 20. by Mr Charles Fox, That it be referred to a committee, to inquire into the cauſes of the ill ſucceſs of his Majeſty's arms in North America, as alſo into the cauſes of the defection of the people in the province of Quebec. And the previous queſtion being propoſed, a motion was made, That the reſolution of Feb. 6. 1775, reported from the committee to whom it was referred to conſider further of the papers preſented to the Houſe by Lord North, on the 19th and 31ſt days of January, and the 1ſt of February, 1775, by the King's command, might be read. Which having been read, the previous queſtion was put, That the firſt propoſed queſtion be now put? and it paſſed in the negative, 240 to 104.

A motion was made, March 1. by Mr Luttrell, and the queſtion being put, That the proper officers do lay before this Houſe, the laſt weekly accounts received at the admiralty, from the Admiral, or commander in chief of his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels at the ſeveral ports of Chatham, Plymouth, and Portſmouth, together with the laſt weekly accounts of the ſtate and condition of all ſuch ſhips and veſſels of war as are now employed upon channel-ſervice, or on the coaſts of Great Britain or Ireland? it paſſed in the negative, 93 to 44.

A motion was made, March 6. by Mr Sawbridge, Lord Mayor of London, (his annual motion), and the queſtion being put, That leave be given to bring in a bill for ſhortening the duration of parliaments? it paſſed in the negative, 138 to 64.

On a motion made, March 8. by Col. Barré, the Commons ordered, That there be laid before this Houſe, copies of the requiſitions made by the commander in chief of his Majeſty's forces in North America, on which the ſums have been advanced (which appear in the account of extraordinary ſervices incurred, and paid by the Rt Hon. Richard Rigby, paymaſter-general of his Majeſty's forces, between the 9th of March 1775, and the 31ſt of January 1776, and not provided for by parliament, to have been advanced) to Thomas Harley and Henry Drummond, Eſqs, to be by them applied and inveſted in the purchaſing Spaniſh and Portugal coins, for the uſe and ſervice of his Majeſty's forces in North America, together with an account of the expenditure thereof, as far as the ſame can be made up.

Accordingly Sir Grey Cooper, Mar. 11. preſented to the Houſe, copies of nine requiſitions of the following dates and ſums.

Seven by Lt-Gen. Gage, in 1775, viz. Feb. 7. 21,500 l.; April 7. 20,000 l.; May 23. 10,000 l.; June 1. 20,000 l.; July 22. 20,000 l.; Aug. 7. 40,000 l.; and Sept. 30. 100,000 l.

Two by Maj.-Gen. Howe, viz. Nov. 1. 1775. 100,000 l.; and Jan. 1. 1776. 100,000 l.

Two reſolutions of the ſupply-committee were reported, March 12. and agreed to without a diviſion, viz.

"That 137,448 l. 7 s. be granted for defraying the charge of ſix regiments of foot from Ireland, and of ſeveral augmentations to his Majeſty's forces, from their reſpective commencements, to the 24th of December 1776 inclusive."

"That 845,165 l. 14 s. 8 d. 1 f. be granted towards defraying the extraordinary expences of his Majeſty's land-forces, and other ſervices incurred between March 9. 1775 and Jan. 31. 1776, and not provided for by parliament."

Two reſolutions were then moved for by Mr Burke; but both paſſed in the negative, viz.

"That it appears to this Houſe, that the extraordinary expences, (contained in the account of extraordinary ſervices incurred, and paid by the Rt Hon. Richard Rigby, paymaſter-general of his Majeſty's forces, between March 9. 1775 and Jan. 31. 1776, and not provided for by parliament), amounting to 845,165 l. 14 s. 8 d. 1 f. have been incurred, for the greater part, for ſervices within the town of Boſton, in North America."

"That it appears to this Houſe, that ample proviſion has been made by the public, for the accommodation and comfort of the troops ſerving within the town of Boſton, which made the levying any further money upon, or begging any from, the ſubject, on that pretence, unneceſſary." [162.]

The Houſe was moved, March 21. by Mr Wilkes, That the entry in the journal of the Houſe, of March 26. 1668, in relation to the proceedings of the Houſe, upon the bill to enable the county-palatine of Durham, to ſend two knights to ſerve for the county, and two citizens to

ſerve for the city, of Durham, might be read. Which being read accordingly, he made a motion, and the queſtion was put upon it, That leave be given to bring in a bill for a juſt and equal repreſentation of the people of England in parliament. It paſſed in the negative without a diviſion. [xii. 424, 5. ix. 271. xxxii. 358.]

The Houſe reſolved, March 22. That this Houſe will, upon Monday morning next, reſolve itſelf into a committee of the whole Houſe, to conſider of a method for leſſening the rates now payable for the relief of the poor, by impoſing a tax upon all perſons keeping dogs, to be applied for that purpoſe.———On Monday, March 25. the juſt mentioned order being read; and a motion being made, and the queſtion being put, That Mr Speaker do now leave the chair? it paſſed in the negative, 24 to 19.

On motion, March 27. the act 9° Geo. I. *for the more effectual puniſhing wicked and evil-diſpoſed perſons going armed in diſguiſe, and doing injuries and violence to the perſons and properties of his Majeſty's ſubjects, and for the more ſpeedy bringing the offenders to juſtice*, was read. Then leave was given, on a diviſion, 56 to 13, to bring in a bill, for preventing the inhuman practice of plundering ſhips that are ſhipwrecked on the coaſts of G. Britain, and for the further relief of ſhips in diſtreſs on the ſaid coaſts. The bill was preſented, April 25. by Mr Burke, read a firſt time, and ordered to be read a ſecond time, on Monday following, and to be printed. —On reading the order of the day, April 30. for the ſecond reading, a petition of the ſeveral hundreds on the ſea-coaſt of Caermarthen was read, ſetting forth, that if proper perſons were appointed to give immediate notice to magiſtrates of ſuch accidents happening, the plundering might be prevented, and the neceſſary relief afforded, under the powers of an act 26° Geo. II.; and ſubmitting, whether ſome means of prevention might not be eſtabliſhed, whereby the purpoſes of humanity would be better ſerved, than by providing remedies for evils when they have happened, either by amercing the hundred, or puniſhing the offenders; and praying, that the bill might not paſs into a law. The queſtion being put, That the bill be now read a ſecond time? it paſſed in the negative, 55 to 43. Put off for two months.

On Monday, April 1. Mr Hartley, in a long ſpeech went through the management of the American war in all the departments of the army and navy, and endeavoured to ſhew, that the expence far exceeded what had been ſtated to the Houſe by adminiſtration, that the ſupplies voted would prove inadequate, that the eſtimates fell ſhort as they had been laid before the Houſe, and that the real charge of the war for the current year remained unprovided for. Ten motions were then made ſucceſſively, and the queſtion was put upon each, viz.

" 1. That there be laid before this Houſe an eſtimate of the probable expence of his Majeſty's navy for the preſent year, diſtinguiſhed under proper heads, upon the ſervices voted by this Houſe; ſhewing alſo how far this ſaid expence may probably exceed, or fall ſhort of, the ſums already voted for theſe ſervices; as alſo an eſtimate of the probable expence of tranſports and victualling, during the preſent year.

2. That an eſtimate of the probable amount of extraordinary ſervices likely to be incurred by his Majeſty's land-forces in one year, from March 9. 1775, be prepared, and laid before this Houſe.

3. That an eſtimate of the probable expence of the office of ordnance for land-ſervice during the preſent year, over and above the proviſion already made in this ſeſſion of parliament, be prepared, and laid before this Houſe.

4. That it appears to this Houſe, That the ſupplies already voted in this ſeſſion amount to the ſum of £ 6,157,000 or thereabouts, excluſive of ſeveral other ſervices as yet unprovided for.

5. That it is the opinion of this Houſe, —That the expence of the navy for the year 1776, may probably exceed the proviſions hitherto made by parliament to the amount of £ 2,500,000.

6. —That the extraordinaries of the land-forces for one year, from March 9. 1775, may probably amount to the ſum of £ 2,500,000.

7. —That the expence of the office of ordnance for land-ſervice for the year 1776, may probably exceed the proviſions hitherto made in this ſeſſion by the ſum of £ 300,000.

8. That it appears to this Houſe, that there are exchequer-bills outſtanding to the amount of £ 1,250,000 principal money, charged upon the firſt aids of this

ſeſſion,

ſeſſion, for which no proviſion has yet been made.

9. That it appears to this Houſe, that the navy-debt, on the 31ſt of December laſt, amounted, by eſtimate, to the ſum of £ 2,698,000, or thereabouts.

10. That it is the opinion of this Houſe, that, for the better ſecurity of public credit, it would be proper to provide for the navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, outſtanding on the 29th of February 1776, amounting to the principal ſum of £ 2,308,000, or thereabouts, (excluſive of intereſt already due), or at leaſt for ſuch part of the ſaid bills as do at preſent carry intereſt at four per cent."

They all paſſed in the negative; the 4th, 9th, and 10th, upon the previous queſtion.

In the ways-and-means committee, April 24. Lord North opened the budget, that is, gave an account of the propoſed plan for raiſing ſuch part of the ſupplies granted for the ſervice of the current year as are not provided for by the ordinary revenues. His Lordſhip ſhewed the expediency and œconomy of raiſing the ſum of two millions by a new fund, bearing intereſt at three per cent. in preference to all other means. He then propoſed to raiſe the ſaid ſum on the following plan:

1,400,000 l. by annuities at three per cent. and 600,000 l. by lottery. Each ſubſcriber of 70 l. to be intitled to 77 l. 10 s. annuities, to bear intereſt from April 5. 1776; and three lottery-tickets at 10 l.; the prizes to be funded and bear intereſt at three per cent. from the ſame time. In order to raiſe the annual intereſt of theſe funds, which by the gratuity amounts to 2,160,000 l. his Lordſhip propoſed the following taxes.

An additional duty of 20 s. on four-wheel carriages. Theſe, he obſerved, were undoubtedly articles of luxury, which men who enjoyed them would hardly lay aſide for this trifling addition: or, if it did induce ſome few to look into their accounts, who ſhall find they had no right to keep them, it would have a very good effect; but ſtill it would be a productive tax. As to two-wheel carriages, ſo few were now kept, that it was not an object worth his notice. But he was amazed at the omiſſion in the firſt act for impoſing a duty on carriages, that ſtage-coaches were not included: he ſhewed the reaſonableneſs of their paying like the reſt, and propoſed it. He then mentioned the number of four-wheel carriages entered to pay duty laſt year, to be 18,900, and the number of ſtage-coaches (which we think he under-rated) to be 400, and made his new tax, together with the new and old to be paid by the ſtages, amount to 19,000 l.

The ſecond tax propoſed was an additional ſtamp-duty on all deeds; and he mentioned that 500,000 deeds were ſtamped in a year; an additional 1 s. 6 d. on theſe he computed would produce 30,000 l.; and they were ſuch deeds only as before were ſubject to a ſtamp-duty, and could beſt afford it, as bonds, leaſes, &c.

His third was a tax of an additional halfpenny on news-papers. With this article he made very merry as a great luxury; and expreſſed his aſtoniſhment, that under a deſpotic miniſter twelve million three hundred and twenty-four thouſand news-papers ſhould be ſtamped yearly at the office; and did not doubt but rather than not have the pleaſure of ſeeing ſuch a miniſter daily abuſed, the curious and the politicians would with pleaſure give the other halfpenny. This tax he computed at 18,000 l.

The fourth was an additional ſtamp-duty of 6 d. per pack on cards; which, in this gay, gaming age, he hoped it would not be thought improper to demand.

The fifth, an additional ſtamp-duty of 2 s. 6 d. on every pair of dice. — Theſe two laſt articles he eſtimated at 6000 l. and he ſaid the number of packs of cards entered laſt year was 428,000.

The whole computed produce of the enumerated taxes his Lordſhip calculated at 73,000 l. The intereſt on the loan would require 64,000 l. and the balance remaining would ſupply any deficiencies that might ariſe on theſe eſtimates, or the other revenues.

His Lordſhip added, that contingencies might ariſe, and unforeſeen incidents, which might require a larger ſupply; and therefore he gave notice to the Houſe, that he ſhould receive a meſſage from his Majeſty to deſire a vote of credit for one million.

His Lordſhip obſerved, that his loan was full; and that though it did not offer any very advantageous terms to the ſubſcribers, ſuch was the high ſtate of

public credit, that it was already filled, and he could have had double the ſum, if he had wanted.

Reſolutions were formed on theſe in the committee, which were next day reported, and agreed to by the Houſe.

Lord North, May 2. preſented the following meſſage, which was read, and referred to the ſupply-committee, viz.

"GEORGE R. His Majeſty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and conſidering, that, during the preſent troubles in North America, emergencies may ariſe, which may be of the utmoſt importance, and be attended with the moſt dangerous conſequences, if proper means ſhould not be immediately applied to prevent or defeat them, is deſirous that this Houſe will enable him to defray any extraordinary expences incurred, or to be incurred, on account of military ſervices for the year 1776, and as the exigency of affairs may require. And his Majeſty, having judged it expedient to iſſue his proclamation, in purſuance of an act of parliament, paſſed in the fourteenth year of his reign, for calling in the remainder of the deficient gold coin, doubts not but that his faithful Commons will enable him to make good the charges which ſhall be incurred in this ſervice, and which cannot at this time be aſcertained. G. R."

Sir James Lowther, April 25. made the following motion: "That it is the opinion of this Houſe, that the introducing of foreign troops into any part of the dominions of the crown of Great Britain, without the previous conſent or approbation of the parliament of Great Britain, is contrary to the principles of the conſtitution, and not warranted by law." It paſſed in the negative, on the previous queſtion, 149 to 88.

A motion was made, April 30. by Mr Wilkes, That the reſolution of the Houſe, of Feb. 17. 1769, "That John Wilkes, Eſq; having been in this ſeſſion of parliament expelled this Houſe, was, and is, incapible of being elected a member to ſerve in this preſent parliament," be expunged from the Journals of this Houſe, as being ſubverſive of the rights of the whole body of electors of this kingdom? — It paſſed in the negative, 186 to 92.

On a motion by Mr Grenville, the Commons ordered, May 3. That Mr Attorney-General do give this Houſe an account of what proceedings have been, in the proſecutions of Richard Smith, Thomas Brand Hollis, James Caithorpe, and Richard Beckford, Eſqs, [154.], purſuant to the direction of this Houſe in the laſt ſeſſion of parliament.

In the end of April the following hand-bill was delivered to many members of both Houſes of Parliament.

"*April* 24. 1776.

"By an account of extraordinary ſervices incurred and paid by the Rt Hon. Richard Rigby, paymaſter-general of his Majeſty's forces, between the 9th of March 1775, and the 31ſt of January 1776, and not provided for by parliament,

It appears there was paid, betwixt the 31ſt of March 1775, and the 27th of January 1776, (being leſs than ten months), to Thomas Harley and Henry Drummond, Eſqs, to be by them applied and inveſted in the purchaſing Spaniſh and Portugal coins for the uſe and ſervice of his Majeſty's forces in North America, the ſum of L. 408,809 : 5 : 1.

If the above ſum was required for the uſe and ſervice of a body of men, never exceeding eight thouſand, in the ſpace of leſs than ten months, how much ſpecie will it be neceſſary to ſend to North America in twelve months, for the uſe and ſervice of 40,000 men, which our Scots miniſters have determined ſhall be there this ſummer to give the *cowardly rebels a complete cruſh?*

The anſwer is, L. 2,453,355.

Query, If the above 40,000 men ſhould attempt entering upon action, whether the expence will not increaſe the above ſum very conſiderably?

Whether any part, and how much, of the above ſum, can be expected ever to return hither again, and when?

How long can an annual drain of 2,453,355 l. of ſpecie laſt, without danger of entirely overſetting our public credit?

Whether the North-Americans, taſting the ſweets of ſuch immenſe wealth flowing into their country, will not keep themſelves wholly upon the defenſive, till we are ſo exhauſted by expence as to be forced to yield to their terms?"

Continuance of the debate on the late treaties with foreign princes. [176.]

Earl Temple, who had not attended the Houſe this ſeſſions before, ſtood up alone, undeciſive on either ſide, neither approving nor condemning the meaſures of adminiſtration,

miniſtration, but declaring, in a moſt ſolemn and pathetic ſpeech, that he thought it his duty not to abſent himſelf from the Houſe upon this important occaſion, though in his preſent ſequeſtered ſituation it was impoſſible for him to form any deciſive opinion, as to what meaſures might be moſt proper to extricate his country from the criſis to which ſhe was now reduced. The Houſe, he ſaid, very well knew, that he never concurred in any of the former ſteps, ſuch as enforcing the right of taxation, nor yet in the very abſurd one of ſending the tea to America, which, with other things, had brought this nation into its preſent unfortunate ſituation; but as matters now ſtood, he could not but wiſh ſucceſs to the meaſures of adminiſtration; for the dye is caſt, the ſword unſheathed, and the ſcabbard thrown away. — It is now too late to hold out terms of accommodation: America muſt ſubmit. His Lordſhip ſaid, he hoped the meaſures had been maturely weighed by the King's ſervants; but he would not enter too deeply into that argument, becauſe the firſt eaſterly wind would carry to the Americans what every Noble Lord ſaid in the debate; and this, in his opinion, was a time when there was much to be done, and but little to be ſaid. We are now between Scilla and Charybdis; and how to ſteer the veſſel of ſtate with ſafety between them was a very delicate point indeed; but as it was at preſent a ſtruggle for power, he thought government ought to be ſupported by all real lovers of their country.

Lord Townſhend [119.]. "Having at firſt entertained doubts relative to the claims of this country over America, I gave the ſubject for ſome time all the attention in my power: I conſidered the ſeveral charters; I examined the relation both countries ſtood in towards each other; I looked back to the infant as well as the more mature ſtate of the colonies; and was at length convinced, that America was bound by every rule of juſtice, and every tie of gratitude and political obligation, to contribute towards the common ſupport; and conſequently that America, from the beginning, had been the aggreſſor. But, my Lords, though the right of Great Britain to controul every part of the dominions of the crown were to be queſtioned; though the charters were binding and valid, to the extent contended for; ſtill the ſtate of things is ſuch, as renders it impoſſible to look back to the cauſes of this war ſo as to anſwer any wiſe or ſalutary purpoſe. The juſtice of the cauſe is loſt in the din of war. The Noble Earl in the blue ribbon (Lord Tempie) has told you very juſtly, that it is now become a ſtruggle for power; the dye is caſt, and the only point which now remains to be determined, is, in what manner the war can be moſt effectually proſecuted, and ſpeedily finiſhed, in order to procure that unconditional ſubmiſſion, which has been ſo ably ſtated by the Noble Earl with the white ſtaff (Lord Talbot). I know of no method ſo probable to inſure ſucceſs to our operations as that now adopted. By it we procure an immediate ſupply of men; men trained to the uſe of arms, and of courſe fit for immediate ſervice. And I have no reaſon to doubt, that the meaſures now purſuing will put an end to the war in the courſe of a ſingle campaign. This will operate doubly in procuring the great objects we have in view: it will at once put an end to the calamities of war, and ſave an immenſe expence to the nation. — A Noble Earl (Effingham) has appealed to me, in relation to the preſent ſtate, condition, and diſpoſition of Ireland; to which I can only anſwer, if any diſturbances ſhould break out in that kingdom, they muſt be ſuppreſſed. I do not believe they will; nor have I any reaſon to think ſuch an event at all probable. — His Lordſhip has ſtated his apprehenſions of a French or Spaniſh invaſion. That, too, I think equally improbable. France will be cautious of making any attempt of that kind, as long as ſhe remembers the defeat and deſtruction of the armament ſent there under Thurot, during the late war [xxii. 98. to 104.]. But ſuppoſing that the Noble Earl's fears were well founded, in my opinion it would be an additional motive for our puſhing on the war with vigour and effect; in ſhort, to induce us to terminate it by the moſt powerful and deciſive operations: for if it ſhould be permitted to linger beyond the preſent campaign, we ſhall have reaſon to expect the interference of ſome foreign power, who may probably avail itſelf of our domeſtic troubles and civil diſtractions. — The Noble Duke who made the motion has ſaid, that foreigners were attempted to be forced on Ireland [158.], and that it has been ſtripped of its national military

eſtabliſhment.

eſtabliſhment. As to the laſt, if it be a fault, it cannot be charged on the miniſtry of this country; it was an act of their own parliament; and if his Majeſty had not bound himſelf by his royal promiſe, there was nothing to prevent him from ſending the whole or any part of the military force ſtationed in that kingdom to what part of the empire he pleaſed, where the exigencies of affairs, or the operations of war, ſhould make it neceſſary. In reſpect to foreigners, the very ſtate of Ireland, as repreſented by the Noble Duke, would be a ſufficient reaſon for his Majeſty to ſend a body of foreigners into that kingdom for its defence, without adviſing with his parliament there; for I believe the Noble Duke will hardly contend, that the King, with the advice of his parliament here, or, on an emergency, previous to ſuch advice, may not ſend a body of troops into any part of the dominions of the Britiſh crown, for its defence and protection."

The Duke of Grafton. "The Noble Duke who made the motion, has ſtated the whole of the buſineſs of this day in ſo accurate a manner, with ſo much preciſion, and ſo judiciouſly pointed to the ſeveral parts that form the whole, as to leave very little for me to add. Indeed, as to the matter immediately under conſideration, his Grace has totally precluded me. I cannot, however, ſit down without expreſſing my general ſentiments on this very momentous and important motion. From the firſt beginning of the preſent troubles I aſſiduouſly endeavoured to ſatisfy myſelf of the true ground and nature of the diſpute, to examine the reſpective pretenſions of the parties, to procure the beſt lights the nature of the controverſy afforded, and to form my opinion without predilection or partiality. The effect of this conduct and thoſe reſearches was, that I plainly ſaw that the people of America, inſtead of being protected in their rights, and ſecured in their property, would be left nothing which they could call their own, becauſe no line could be drawn, no boundary could be ſet up, to limit the extent of the claim. You could not ſay, that ſupremacy ſhall exiſt for ſuch and ſuch purpoſes, and ſhall be reſtrained in its exerciſe in ſuch and ſuch caſes; becauſe the very inſtant you ſet limits to its right of taxation, you would annihilate the principle on which that right is founded, and would conſequently leave the queſtion as open and undecided as ever. Taking it in the other light, that unconditional ſupremacy, in the mode and extent laid down by the Noble Earl with the white ſtaff, was of the very eſſence of government; ſimilar difficulties, though ariſing from a different cauſe, preſented themſelves to my view; I mean the expediency of coercing America, and the impracticability of carrying coercive meaſures into effectual execution. I perceived, that great allowances were to be made for a people who had been, as they thought, in the poſſeſſion of certain rights for more than a century. I was convinced of the cruelty and bad policy of wreſting thoſe rights from them wantonly, and without any apparent cauſe. I was ſatisfied of the wildneſs and impracticability of the attempt. But let me go one ſtep further, and ſuppoſe that the expediency and practicability were equal to the preſumed juſtice of the cauſe, ought we not to look to our own abilities, to our reſources, and compare the inconveniencies which muſt reſult from theſe meaſures, with the advantages we propoſe to ourſelves to obtain? I am tolerably acquainted with the finances of this country, and I do moſt ſolemnly aſſure your Lordſhips, that I do not know a ſingle tax it is in the power of the moſt fruitful invention to deviſe or conceive, which would increaſe the receipt at the exchequer. Every tax that can poſſibly be thought of will interfere with ſome other. The nation is loaded to the full extent of its abilities. And what are you going to do! You are entering into a war, the ſucceſs of which is problematical at leaſt, if not improbable. To carry on this war new taxes will be neceſſary; and having no ſecurity to give, the conſequence will be, that you will be obliged to pledge the old funds, contrary to public faith, and the ſecurity of the public creditors; or you will be compelled to contract new debts, by which, if the war ſhould continue for any time, national credit will be ruined, and the kingdom be undone. — This leads me to a conſideration of the firſt importance; it is the general inattention and indifference to the intereſt of the nation, which prevail among thoſe to whom they are intruſted. A moſt alarming profligacy of manners, and unbounded love of pleaſure and diſſipation, have taken poſſeſſion of almoſt all ranks and

and degrees of people. Miniſters are truſted indiſcriminately, parliament has ſurrendered or abandoned its right of controul, and all the great concerns of the nation are truſted to chance, or to men by no means fitted for the arduous taſk of government. How do you think, my Lords, this will terminate? When the people find themſelves borne down under the preſſure of taxes, which they will be no longer able to pay; when public credit is no more; when public bankruptcy ſtares them in the face; when, in conſequence of ſuch a ſtate of things, univerſal ruin and deſpair ſpread themſelves through every part of this iſland; I will tell you, my Lords, the people, as no longer able to endure ſuch calamities, and expecting no redreſs where only it can be legally or conſtitutionally ſought, will ſeek relief in the means which God and nature has pointed out. They will no longer look up to parliament; becauſe parliament has betrayed them, has been deaf to their intreaties, and inattentive to their intereſts. — It may be anſwered, that the preſent meaſures are the meaſures of the people; that they are approved of by a great majority of the nation; and that they have, in a variety of inſtances, and through a variety of channels, expreſſed the moſt hearty and zealous approbation. I deny the fact: but though I ſhould allow the proofs, they are very far from combating any thing I have now aſſerted. If the people have been miſled, or lulled into a deceitful ſecurity, it proves my argument on the ground I have taken it up. It is not on the wiſdom and ſoundneſs of the meaſures, but on their fallacy, and evil tendency, that I draw the preſent deductions. Beſides, addreſſes, and the various means employed by men in power to obtain the public ſanction and approbation, will never paſs with me for a proof of their being the real ſentiments of thoſe to whom they are imputed: for at no time ſince the firſt eſtabliſhment of monarchy did this teſt of public opinion manifeſt itſelf more than during the greater part of the reign of James II. Addreſſes, congratulations, engagements to ſupport him with their lives and fortunes, poured in from every quarter; yet that infatuated monarch fatally found, that they were but the mere efforts of miniſterial art and court-adulation. — On the whole, my Lords, conſidering this great queſtion in all its different points of view, and purſuing it in all its conſequences, I can perceive nothing but inevitable ruin. I contemplate it with the moſt pungent pain and anxiety; I turn my face from it with horror. Theſe have been my ſentiments from the very beginning, and I have uniformly acted conformably thereto. I have argued, prayed, and implored, that the wild, ruinous, and deſtructive project might be laid aſide. I do now beſeech your Lordſhips, for the laſt time, to beſtow ſome further conſideration on the ſubject. The dye is not yet irretrievably caſt; the ſword is drawn, but it may yet be ſheathed. The propoſition now made to you by the Noble Duke may open a field for peace and reconciliation. This opportunity once loſt, I fear can never again be recovered. — I would beg to recal to your Lordſhips recollection what fell from me in the courſe of the laſt year when in another ſituation, (where I unhappily ſtood ſingle in opinion), that I promiſed to ſubmit a plan for compoſing the differences now ſubſiſting between Great Britain and America to your conſideration. Whatever has been urged by the Noble Lord in the blue ribbon to the contrary, I am convinced it is not yet too late, and that all the miſeries and calamities which now threaten the nation may yet be averted, if we will only, without diſtinction of party, undertake the performance of the arduous taſk with willing hearts and proper diſpoſitions. — As to the treaties which make more particularly the ſubject of this day's debate, they have been ſo amply commented on, and ſo fully explained, by the Noble mover, that I ſhould have hardly troubled your Lordſhips, did not I think it my duty, as applying directly to the manner this buſineſs of foreign treaties has been conducted on the part of adminiſtration, to expreſs my utmoſt aſtoniſhment at the language held by a Noble Lord high in office, in whoſe department, as ſecretary of ſtate, this negotiation muſt of courſe have been tranſacted. The Noble Lord riſes to declare his ignorance, whether or not a commander in chief appointed by his Majeſty, or the commander of thoſe foreign mercenaries, ſhould have the ſupreme command? Did his Lordſhip take upon him to negotiate this treaty, without any one official requiſite to conduct and conclude it? or, has he firſt made the treaty, and after it is

finally

finally concluded, and made binding on the nation, does he come into this Houſe, totally ignorant whether he acted right or wrong, to receive inſtructions from ſuch of your Lordſhips as are converſant in military affairs, to know whether the whole of the Britiſh dominion in America is, or is not, to be under the abſolute command of a foreign mercenary, at the head of 12,000 hirelings? But ſuppoſe his Lordſhip ſhould tell me, that the ſupreme command is veſted in the commander in chief, though he be a junior officer, will he aſſure me, that the matter has been ſo underſtood by the Landgrave of Heſſe, or that his general is appriſed of it? Or, laſtly, will his Lordſhip inform me, whether ſufficient proviſion has been made, in caſe of death, or any other accident, to ſupply the vacancy with a ſucceſſion of other officers, who may be eventually called to the command, by commiſſions granted for the purpoſe; and that the prince and the general have been acquainted with this eventual arrangement, and have acquieſced in it?—I think it proper, before I ſit down, to allude to one circumſtance in which I took a part, but in which I was moſt egregiouſly deceived, I mean the vote I gave reſpecting the Maſſachuſſet's-bay charter bill. To induce me to give that vote I was informed, that the alteration of the charter was at the expreſs deſire of the merchants, and a great majority of the people of property and conſequence inhabiting that province. I have ſince diſcovered that I was deceived; for that, at the time, as well as ſince, the very contrary was the fact. It has been indeed the uniform practice, ſince the commencement of this buſineſs, to give falſe information, or proceed on none. I have therefore only to declare, that I would never have given my ſanction to that law, if I had not been led into error by a falſe ſtate of the mater; and though I unhappily fell into the ſnare laid for me, I am now free to declare, that the law for altering the charter of Maſſachuſet's-bay was in every reſpect oppreſſive, impolitic, and unconſtitutional; and, if crouded with the claim of taxation, I am fully juſtified in maintaining, that as one leaves the ſubject no property, the other deprives him of every natural and political right; and that they are both equally deſtructive of the inalienable privileges of an Engliſhman, and the natural rights to which all mankind are intitled, if not ſtripped of them by fraud, force, or injuſtice."

Lord Suffolk. "I preſume the Noble Duke in the blue ribbon miſunderſtood what I ſaid; for I do not preſume his Grace had any intention of miſrepreſenting my words. I do not ſay, or mean, that I had any doubt whether the commander in chief, though a junior officer, had a right to command the Heſſian general. I poſitively and unconditionally aſſerted, he had; and only referred to the Noble Lords preſent, converſant in military affairs, in proof of that aſſertion. —As to the other point the Noble Duke alluded to, the ſame rule which prevails in reſpect of the commander in chief, will of courſe take place in the perſon of whoever may be appointed, or happen to ſucceed him."

Lord Shelburne. "An inſinuation, my Lords, has been thrown out, in order to give a ſanction to the preſent meaſures, that a certain Earl (Chatham), whom I do not this day ſee in his place, has changed his former opinions reſpecting them; but I will venture to affirm, without any direct information on that head, that it is equally groundleſs and ill-founded. I am ſure I can anſwer ſo far as to ſay, that in the ſeveral diſcourſes he has done me the honour to hold with me on the ſubject, nothing leading, or even tending that way, has ever eſcaped him. Beſides, his motion [xxxvii. 81, 3.], and the conſequent ſteps taken by his Lordſhip, which remain on your Lordſhips journals, put the matter beyond doubt or uncertainty. His plan, ſince the firſt commencement of this buſineſs, has been conciliation, not coercion. So much has been already ſaid on the ſubject of the treaties now on your Lordſhips table, that I ſhall trouble you very little farther than to expreſs my aſtoniſhment at a language which has been held this day, in relation to the employment of foreigners. It creates double wonder, when coming from the ſupporters of the preſent meaſures, againſt whoſe profeſſed ſyſtem of policy it militates in the moſt marked contradiction. The doctrine is ſhortly this: When you have any extenſive operations of war to carry on, keep your own men at home employed in our manufactures and agriculture, and truſt the defence of the empire, and commit the proſecution of your moſt eſſential intereſts, to foreigners. Your

Your country is ſmall and inſignificant, in point of numbers; the few hands you have are wanting at home; and ſhould you employ them in war, your country would be ruined; the plough and loom muſt inſtantly ſtand ſtill. Is this, my Lords, a language to be endured? Can this doctrine be ſeriouſly maintained in this houſe, without ſubjecting its authors to ridicule and deriſion? Were thoſe the ſentiments which prevailed during the late war, when we had at one time no leſs than 350,000 natives in actual ſervice; and when the whole number we employed amounted to no leſs than 418,000 men? Will any man ſay, that our manufactures ſtood ſtill for want of hands, when our exports increaſed full two millions annually, and when both our exports and imports exceeded any thing known in former times? Could we thirteen years ago ſpare 350,000 men for carrying on the operations of war, and carry on our manufactures to an extent never before known; and ſhall it be this day gravely contended, that we cannot raiſe a fifth part of the number, without ruining our manufactures, which conſideration obliges us to apply for aſſiſtance to two German ſtates, as the only means of procuring our political ſalvation? Such arguments would ſurpriſe me coming from any quarter; but much more ſo, from a ſet of men who have uniformly condemned all intercourſe with the continent, all German ſubſidies and German connections. I remember a Noble Duke, now no more, whom I looked upon to be a very able man, and a Noble Earl, both of whom have been mentioned in the courſe of this debate, (Duke of Bedford and Lord Bute), during the late war, and at the concluſion of the late peace, held it as a point not to be departed from, that this country could ſubſiſt without any alliance on the continent. I know that a Noble Earl (Lord Chatham) who conducted that war, was of the ſame opinion; and juſtified his conduct by frequently declaring, in private and public, "that he did not bring us to the continent; that he found us there." We all know, that this ſyſtem at laſt prevailed; and that it has been the uniform politics of the preſent reign to adhere to that ſyſtem. Shall we now be told, by the ſame men, acting up to the ſame rule for more than fourteen years, that the ſyſtem is a bad one; that alliances on the continent muſt be formed; that we have not men ſufficient in the nation to defend and protect us; that if we had, we cannot ſpare them, without ruin to our manufactures?" His Lordſhip then turned his attention to the new levies, ſhewed how the principle of keeping up old corps, eſtabliſhed at the peace, had been departed from, by raiſing new corps; and how Highlanders had been recruited in ſeveral parts of England, to fill up Gen. Fraſer's two battalions. He ſpoke of the ill treatment and reſentments of the King of Pruſſia, and the Emperor; and of our not having a ſingle ally on the continent of the leaſt conſequence.

Lord Lyttelton. "My ſentiments on the preſent ſubject are pretty well known. I ſhall only obſerve now, that lenient meaſures have only brought inſult after inſult; that the more we conceded, the higher America has riſen in her demands, and the more inſolent ſhe has grown. It is for this reaſon that I am now for the moſt effective and deciſive meaſures; and am of opinion, that no alternative is left us, but to relinquiſh America for ever, or finally determine to compel her to acknowledge the legiſlative ſupremacy of this country. I do not pretend to decide, in the preſent ſituation of both countries, how far it may be expedient to inſiſt on taxes, for the purpoſe of raiſing a revenue; not but that it is evident, we are fully competent to demand them. However, it is plain, when they return to a proper ſtate of obedience, that the right is with us, and that we may exerciſe it according to circumſtances, and local convenience. In the event of our prevailing in this conteſt, it is the principle of an unconditional ſubmiſſion I would be for maintaining. Not that I would be for puſhing the conſequences of this doctrine to its full extent. I think, the right once fully eſtabliſhed, and acknowledged, G. Britain ought by all means to ſecure to the people of that country thoſe privileges and immunities to which every native ſubject of this free government is confeſſedly intitled."

Lord Camden ſhewed, on various grounds, the difference between mercenaries, who merely fought for money, and allies, who had an eventual intereſt in the ſucceſs of the war. He contended, that the troops taken into our pay under the preſent treaties, were mere hirelings in the proper ſenſe of the deſcription. He pointed out the evil conſequences of the preſent meaſures, rela-

tive to the national debt. He computed the expences of the preſent campaign at the ſum of ten millions; and endeavoured to prove, that the exceſs of the expenditure this year more than the annual ſupplies, would amount to as much as the whole debt we had diſcharged in the courſe of a thirteen-years peace. He inſiſted, that the expence would continue to increaſe, as long as the war ſhould laſt; and that, in that event, a national bankruptcy muſt be the conſequence. His Lordſhip next turned his attention to America; obſerved, that they had reſources within themſelves; that the preſent meaſures would have a double effect in enabling them to reſiſt, by the means of the very money ſent to this country for ſuperfluities; which ſuperfluities they would, from neceſſity, either manufacture, or procure from other countries. Thus the preſent meaſures, if adhered to, would have every poſſible bad conſequence that could be imagined. It would increaſe our debt; it would burden the nation entirely beyond its abilities; it would teach America to manufacture for itſelf; it would of courſe lower our exports, injure our manufactures, and, more than all, it would eſtrange the affections of America from this country beyond the power of recovery.

Lord Weymouth. "The Noble Duke in the blue ribbon, and the Noble Lord who ſpoke laſt, happened to be both in adminiſtration at the time the act was paſſed which laid on the duties which were the original cauſe of all the preſent diſturbances. It is ſomewhat extraordinary that they ſhould now complain of their own acts, and come before your Lordſhips to condemn meaſures, which, for any thing that appears to the contrary, originated from themſelves, or at leaſt received their ſanction."

Duke of Grafton. "I confeſs I occupied a very high and reſponſible poſt in adminiſtration when the duties in 1767 were laid upon tea, paper, painters colours, and glaſs. I am, however, extremely well pleaſed to have an opportunity of explaining what yet has not been effectually cleared up. In that year, when the extraordinary expences incurred on account of America were laid before the Houſe of Commons, the Houſe roſe as one man almoſt, and inſiſted, that that country ſhould contribute to the burdens brought on by the military eſtabliſhment there; and a motion was made for bringing in a bill for that purpoſe. I ſtrenuouſly oppoſed the meaſure, as big with the conſequences it has ſince unfortunately produced. I ſpoke to my friends upon the occaſion; but they all united in opinion, that the tide was too ſtrong to expect either to ſtem or turn it, ſo as to prevent whatever might be offered in that ſhape from paſſing into a law. Finding that all my efforts would be in vain, I was compelled to ſubmit; but was reſolved, as far as lay in my power, to prevent the effect, and, while I gave way, to do it in ſuch a manner as would cauſe the leaſt harm. I accordingly propoſed the tea-duty as the moſt palatable; becauſe, though it anſwered the main purpoſe of thoſe with whom taxation was a favourite meaſure, it was doing America an immediate benefit; for I procured the ſhilling a-pound duty to be taken off, and three pence to be laid on in lieu thereof; ſo that, in fact, it was nine pence a-pound ſaving to America. However, the attempt was received in America as I expected it would. It immediately cauſed diſturbances, and univerſal diſſatisfaction. In 1769, therefore, I moved in the cabinet for a repeal; and was outvoted (if I recollect right) by a majority of one. This, therefore, was the part I took in this fatal buſineſs. When the partial repeal was agreed to in council, I intreated and conjured my brethren in office to give up this paltry revenue; but, as I ſaid before, I was over-ruled."

Lord Camden. "For my part, I was not in council, or did not attend in the cabinet, at the time this fatal meaſure was concerted; and, as ſoon as I was appriſed of the tendency of it, I expreſſed my hearty diſapprobation."

Lord Weymouth. "The Noble Duke ſays, he was outvoted in the cabinet; and that there are ſome Noble Lords now preſent who took an active part on that occaſion. The Noble Duke is very right: I was preſent, and am free to declare, that I was one of the members of the cabinet who gave my vote for having the tea-duty retained; and am not aſhamed to own it. The Noble Duke forgets: there was no majority, or caſting voice; the numbers were equal. — The Noble Lord's apology is the moſt extraordinary I ever heard: His Lordſhip ſays, he was not preſent at any time it happened to be debated in council. Will the Noble Lord pretend to excuſe himſelf as a cabinet-counſellor on that ground? or if he could, can he pretend to

to defend himself in giving his approbation and assent, and putting the question, in every successive stage of the bill, to a measure, sitting on that wool-sack as president of this august assembly, which he has asserted, in the course of this night's debate, will be the certain ruin and destruction of this country?"

The Duke of Richmond replied; and the question being put, there appeared for the motion, Contents 32, Non-contents 100.

An account of a duel between General Clavering and Mr Barwell; who, with Governor Hastings, Colonel Monson, and Mr Francis, compose the council of Bengal.

SIR, *April 25. 1775.*

THE expression you used at the board to-day, I have applied to myself, since I was the person who said, "that I could not reconcile your taking money with your oath:" I therefore call on you to give me satisfaction for the affront you have put on me. I will meet you to-morrow morning on Salmon's bridge, at half past five o'clock, with the arms that you will appoint. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, J. CLAVERING.

To R. Barwell, Esq;

SIR, *April 25. 1775.*

I am honoured with your note. The call you have upon me shall be answered; but I must confess myself at present in a situation that requires me to request the favour of a protraction of time. The settlement of those interests which are to affect my friends and relations is a duty so indispensable, that I make no doubt you will admit the apology as sufficient. In a few days I will be able to give you the meeting; and you may be assured it shall be as early as in my power. Nothing shall escape me that shall discover our intentions. Believe me, Sir, I am very much concerned that any occasion should have offered, to draw from me, words expressive of the sense I must feel, when my honour and my integrity are assaulted by an express declaration, of my *having acted in direct contradiction of the most solemn engagements.* It was an accusation so little expected, so injurious to my character, and so irritating, that I trust the retort made to it, will not discredit me; but appear to proceed from just indignation at an injury I did not merit. The words that, "You could not reconcile my taking money at Dacca with my oath," did not indeed seem to deserve my declaration, that, "*I held that man* a villain and a rascal, who presumed to say *I had acted contrary to the dictates of honour, and in direct contradiction to my solemn oath.*" Had I been merely called upon to reconcile my actions to any obligation I was under to the public, I should have answered it with that temper of mind I have always, and desire ever to preserve, in accounting for my actions in public and private life. Please to recollect, Sir, your words, or I mistake them much, were far more pointed, more direct: it was affirmed positively, positively affirmed, that "*I had disregarded my solemn obligation, and had sacrificed those interests of the Company peculiarly committed to my charge.*" I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, R. BARWELL.

To Gen. Clavering.

SIR, *April 25. six o'clock.*

I have received your letter, requiring me to give you a short time to settle some affairs which affect your friends and relations, before you can give me a meeting. In answer thereto, I will wait your call, which I dare say you will think it more for your honour and mine, should not be protracted beyond a few days. I am, &c. J. CLAVERING.

To R. Barwell, Esq;

SIR,

As I am promised my papers this evening by nine o'clock, and am unwilling to encroach on a suspension which your politeness granted to my request, I will attend your call to-morrow morning, at the place and hour you appointed, with my common pistols, the only arms I intend to bring with me. Should Mr Farrer disappoint me, which I do not imagine can be, as he has assured me the business should be punctually executed, I will give you timely information, and answer your commands on the following morning. I am, Sir, &c.

Gardens, Sat. noon. R. BARWELL.

SIR,

I have received the honour of your letter, notifying to me that you will meet me to-morrow morning without any other arms than your common pistols. In conformity thereto, I do myself the pleasure to acquaint you, that I will bring with me no other arms than my pistols. To avoid all appearances, I will go in my post-chaise, and will endeavour to be on the bridge, as near to half past five o'clock as I can calculate. I have

the honour to be, &c. J. CLAVERING.

Sat. even. 6 *o'clock.*

To R. Barwell, Eſq;

Sunday, April 30. 1775.

By appointment attended Gen. Clavering at half paſt five o'clock in the morning upon Salmon's bridge. As I was on foot, the General invited me into his poſt-chaiſe. I ſtept into it; and we proceeded about one third of a mile down the new road to Budge-budge. We there quitted the carriage, and ſtruck off to the left, towards ſome jungle and trees, that ſeemed to promiſe privacy. In this expectation we were diſappointed, as a parcel of huts lay behind them, and the paſſing and repaſſing of the inhabitants interrupted our intention. We then croſſed the great road that leads to Culpee, and walked forwards towards Allypore, turning off to the right. The General fixed upon an unfrequented ſpot in ſight of Allypore-houſe, covered to the north by a hedge of gram.

In the courſe of our walk, I aſked the General the manner he propoſed for the deciſion we met for? He replied, "The nearer the better, he thought." I obſerved to him, that his honour as well as mine had rendered his call upon me, and my compliance with it, neceſſary; that I met him without any enmity; and a diſtance of ground uſual on ſuch occaſions, ſhould be taken; that had I conceived ſuch an inveteracy to have taken place, as to make a different procedure neceſſary, and put the point of honour out of the queſtion, I ſhould either have declined his call, or inſiſted upon the preſence of third perſons. When we came to the ſpot, I walked forward: the General called to me, ſaying, "I was going too diſtant;" upon which I inſtantly ſtopped, pulled off my hat, and put it down where I ſtood. The General then loaded his piſtols upon the ground where he ſtood, cocked, and preſented; but not hearing the chick of my piſtol, he ſaid, "Sir, you have not cock'd your piſtol." I do not recollect the reply I made; but the General, following his obſervation, deſired to examine the piſtol I held in my hand, and walked up to me. I told him "It was loaded:" he took it up, puſhed back the tumbler, and ſeeing it was primed, reſtored it, immediately returning, taking his diſtance; and being deſired by me to fire, he delivered his piſtol without effect, and demanded of me to return it. I excuſed myſelf: the General inſiſted with a degree of vehemence, ſaying, "It muſt be," and that otherwiſe he ſhould be obliged to fire again; and moved towards me, as I did towards him. I ſtill held my piſtol down by my ſide, and refuſed to fire, telling him, "*I ſhould not raiſe my hand againſt his life, whatever he might determine;—he might fire again if he pleaſed.* He replied, "Sir, one of us muſt fall; it cannot end here." I rejoined, by obſerving, that I did not meet him with any other view than to preſerve my honour unimpeached; that as this end was accompliſhed, if any further ſatisfaction was required, I was both ready and willing to give it to him; that as now it could not be imputed to a wrong cauſe, or ſo far miſinterpreted as to reflect upon my honour, I would make him ſuch an apology as was in my power, and ſubſcribe to any paper he might draw, that he thought conſiſtent with my honour to put my hand to. This propoſition the General declined, ſaying, he left that to me, and that the proper place would be the revenue-council, and before the gentlemen who were witneſſes to the affront he received.

The following was read at the revenue-board the 2d of this inſt. May 1775.

"The General has conducted himſelf like a man of honour; his letter, which I have juſt read, has not in it the words I imagined he had uſed, namely, "That I had violated my moſt ſolemn engagements to the Company," words which in fact called me a ſcoundrel: to theſe words the intemperate expreſſion I uſed, I applied, and did intend to apply; but I declare upon my honour, I never meant to affront the General for calling upon me to reconcile my public or private actions with my duty and engagements to the Company. Any explanation which the General, or any other member in his character of a counſellor of this ſtate, can with propriety demand of me, I ſhall give him with pleaſure: it is as far from my natural diſpoſition to offend a man who has not given me an affront, as it is agreeable to it to reſent an affront ſuſtained, or to apologize for any miſconception or miſtake which may have precipitated me to injure any other man.

I ſpeak this without reſerve, that my apology for any miſtake may be ſatisfactory to the General, and full to you Gentlemen, before whom our miſunderſtanding and difference happened."

(Accepted and ſigned) R. BARWELL.

A M E-

AMERICA. [204.]

"PHILADELPHIA. *In Congreſs, Feb.* 23. 1776. Reſolved, That a committee of five be appointed to contract for the making muſkets and bayonets for the uſe of the United Colonies, and to conſider of further ways and means of promoting and encouraging the manufacturing of fire-arms in the United Colonies. The members choſen: Mr Paine, Mr Wilſon, Mr Huntington, Mr Lee, Mr L. Morris. CHARLES THOMSON, Sec."

"In purſuance of the above reſolve, the ſaid Committee hereby notify to all perſons who are diſpoſed to contract for the making muſkets and bayonets, That they make known their propoſals as ſoon as poſſible to them at Philadelphia, or to the aſſemblies, conventions, or committees of ſafety, in the colonies where they live, in order to be tranſmitted to the ſaid committee. R. T. PAINE, per order."

"*In Congreſs, March* 4. 1776. Reſolved, That the reſtraint be taken off, which by a reſolve of the 26th of laſt month, was laid upon veſſels loading or loaded with produce for Great Britain, Ireland, or the Britiſh Weſt Indies, in conſequence of a permiſſion, granted for arms and ammunition imported into theſe colonies. CHARLES THOMSON, Sec."

"*In Congreſs, March* 6. 1776.

Reſolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandiſes, except ſtaves and empty caſks, other than ſhaken or knocked-down caſks for molaſſes, may be exported from the Thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of ALL ſuch countries as are NOT SUBJECT to the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, to ANY parts of the world, which are NOT under the dominion of the ſaid KING: Provided, That no veſſel be permitted to export any greater number of ſhaken or knocked-down molaſſes caſks, than the ſame veſſel is capable of carrying when they ſhall be filled with molaſſes.

Reſolved, That ANY goods, wares, and merchandiſes, EXCEPT ſuch as are of the growth, production, and manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, and except Eaſt-India tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world, to the Thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all ſuch countries as are NOT ſubject to the ſaid KING; liable however to all ſuch duties and impoſitions as now are, or may hereafter be, laid by any of the ſaid colonies.

Reſolved, That nothing herein contained ſhall be underſtood to prevent ſuch future commercial regulations as ſhall be thought juſt and neceſſary by theſe United Colonies, or their reſpective legiſlatures.

Reſolved, That no ſlaves be imported into any of the Thirteen United Colonies.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the aſſemblies and conventions in the ſeveral colonies, to appoint proper officers at convenient places in their reſpective colonies, to take bonds in adequate penalties, for obſerving the regulations made by the Congreſs, or aſſemblies, or conventions, concerning trade, and for ſecuring the obſervation of ſuch parts of the aſſociation as are not inconſiſtent therewith; and that the obligor ſhall, within eighteen months after the departure of the veſſel, produce to ſuch officers, a certificate under the hands and ſeals of three or more reputable merchants reſiding at the port or place where the cargo ſhall be delivered, that the ſame was there unladed; and take manifeſts upon oath, of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof; give bills of health when deſired; grant regiſters, ſhewing the property of the veſſels cleared out; and ſign certificates that the requiſites for qualifying veſſels to trade have been complied with: and that the fees of the ſaid officers be ſtated by the reſpective aſſemblies or conventions.—Provided always, That no proſecution upon any of the ſaid bonds ſhall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Reſolved, That all goods, wares, and merchandiſes, except ſuch as are made prize of, which ſhall be IMPORTED directly or indirectly from GREAT BRITAIN or IRELAND, into any of theſe united colonies, contrary to the regulations eſtabliſhed by Congreſs, ſhall be FORFEITED, and diſpoſed of agreeable to ſuch rules as ſhall be made by the ſeveral aſſemblies or conventions; and ſhall be liable to proſecution and condemnation in any court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs in the colony where the ſeizure ſhall be made.

By order of the Congreſs,

JOHN HANCOCK, Preſident."

"*In*

"*In Congreſs, March* 9. 1776. Reſolved, That no oath, by way of teſt [89.], be impoſed upon, exacted, or required of, any of the inhabitants of theſe colonies, by any military officer. Publiſhed by order of the Congreſs, CHARLES THOMSON, Sec."

"On the 15th of March 1776, John Morton, Eſq; Speaker, laid the following reſolution of the continental congreſs before the Houſe of Aſſembly of Pennſylvania. "Reſolved, That it be recommended to the ſeveral aſſemblies, conventions, and councils, or committees of ſafety, of the United Colonies, immediately to cauſe all perſons to be diſarmed within their reſpective colonies who are notoriouſly diſaffected to the cauſe of America, or who have not aſſociated, and refuſe to aſſociate, to defend by arms theſe united colonies againſt the hoſtile attempts of the Britiſh fleets and armies; and to apply the arms taken from ſuch perſons in each reſpective colony, in the firſt place, to the arming the continental troops raiſed in ſaid colony; in the next, to the arming ſuch troops as are raiſed by the colony for its own defence; and reſidue to be applied to the arming the aſſociators: That the arms, when taken, be appraiſed by indifferent perſons; and ſuch as are applied to the arming continental troops to be paid for by the Congreſs; and the reſidue by the reſpective aſſemblies, conventions, or councils, or committees of ſafety."

"*In Congreſs, March* 16. 1776. The Congreſs, conſidering the warlike preparations of the Britiſh miniſtry to ſubvert our invaluable rights and privileges, and to reduce us, by fire and ſword, by the ſavages of the wilderneſs, and our own domeſtics, to the moſt abject and ignominious bondage; deſirous, at the ſame time, to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impreſſed with a ſolemn ſenſe of God's ſuperintending providence, and of their duty devoutly to rely in all their lawful enterprizes on his aid and direction,—do earneſtly recommend, That Friday, the 17th day of May next, be obſerved by the ſaid colonies as a day of humiliation, faſting, and prayer; that we may with united hearts confeſs and bewail our manifold ſins and tranſgreſſions, and by a ſincere repentance, and amendment of life, appeaſe his righteous diſpleaſure, and, through the merits and mediation of Jeſus Chriſt, obtain his pardon and forgiveneſs: Humbly imploring his aſſiſtance to fruſtrate the cruel purpoſes of our unnatural enemies; and, by inclining their hearts to juſtice and benevolence, prevent the further effuſion of kindred blood: But if, continuing deaf to the voice of reaſon and humanity, and inflexibly bent on deſolation and war, they conſtrain us to repel their hoſtile invaſions by open reſiſtance, that it may pleaſe the Lord of Hoſts, the God of Armies, to animate our officers and ſoldiers with invincible fortitude, to guard and protect them in the day of battle, and to crown the continental arms by ſea and land with victory and ſucceſs: Earneſtly beſeeching him to bleſs our civil rulers, and the repreſentatives of the people in their ſeveral aſſemblies and conventions; to preſerve and ſtrengthen their union; to inſpire them with an ardent diſintereſted love of their country; to give wiſdom and ſtability to their councils; and direct them to the moſt efficacious meaſures for eſtabliſhing the rights of America on the moſt honourable and permanent baſis; that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to bleſs all the people in theſe colonies with health and plenty; and grant that a ſpirit of incorruptible patriotiſm, and of pure undefiled religion, may univerſally prevail; and this continent be ſpeedily reſtored to the bleſſing of peace and liberty, and enabled to tranſmit them inviolate to the lateſt poſterity. And it is recommended to Chriſtians of all denominations to aſſemble for public worſhip, and abſtain from ſervile labour, on the ſaid day.—By order of the Congreſs, JOHN HANCOCK, Preſident."

In Congreſs, March 23. 1776.

WHEREAS the petitions of theſe United Colonies to the King, for the redreſs of great and manifeſt grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with ſcorn and contempt; and the oppoſition to deſigns evidently formed to reduce them to a ſtate of ſervile ſubjection, and their neceſſary defence againſt hoſtile forces actually employed to ſubdue them, declared rebellion: And whereas an unjuſt war hath been commenced againſt them, which the commanders of the Britiſh fleets and armies have proſecuted, and ſtill continue to proſecute, with their utmoſt vigour, and in a cruel manner, waſting, ſpoiling, and deſtroying the country, burning houſes and defenceleſs towns, and expoſing the helpleſs

leſs inhabitants to every miſery from the inclemency of the winter; and not only urging ſavages to invade the country, but inſtigating negroes to murder their maſters: And whereas the parliament of G. Britain hath lately paſſed an act, affirming theſe colonies to be in open rebellion; forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they ſhall accept pardons, and ſubmit to deſpotic rule; declaring their property, where-ever found upon the water, liable to ſeizure and confiſcation; and enacting, that what had been done there, by virtue of the royal authority, were juſt and lawful acts, and ſhall be ſo deemed: From all which it is manifeſt, that the iniquitous ſcheme concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the Engliſh conſtitution, will be pertinaciouſly purſued: It being, therefore, neceſſary to provide for their defence and ſecurity, and juſtifiable to make repriſals upon their enemies, and otherwiſe to annoy them, according to the laws and uſages of nations: The Congreſs, truſting that ſuch of their friends in G. Britain (of whom, it is confeſſed, there are many intitled to applauſe and gratitude for their patriotiſm and benevolence, and in whoſe favour a diſcrimination of property cannot be made) as ſhall ſuffer by captures, will impute it to the author of our common calamities, do declare and reſolve as followeth; to wit,

Reſolved, That the inhabitants of theſe colonies be permitted to fit out armed veſſels, to cruiſe on the enemies of theſe United Colonies.

Reſolved, That all ſhips and other veſſels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandiſes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of G. Britain, taken on the high ſeas, or between high and low water mark, by any armed veſſel fitted out by any private perſon or perſons, and to whom commiſſions ſhall be granted, and, being libelled and proſecuted in any court erected for the trial of maritime affairs in any of theſe colonies, ſhall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prizes, and, after deducting and paying the wages of the ſeamen and mariners on board of ſuch captures as are merchant ſhips and veſſels ſhall be intitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, ſhall be condemned to and for the uſe of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines, and mariners of ſuch armed veſſel, according to ſuch rules and proportions as they ſhall agree on. Provided always, That this reſolution ſhall not extend to any veſſel bringing ſettlers, arms, ammunition, or warlike ſtores, to and for the uſe of theſe colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cauſe, or to ſuch warlike ſtores, or to the effects of ſuch ſettlers.

Reſolved, That all ſhips or veſſels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandiſes, belonging to any inhabitant of G. Britain, as aforeſaid, which ſhall be taken by any of the veſſels of war of theſe United Colonies, ſhall be deemed forfeited, one third, after deducting and paying the wages of ſeamen and mariners, as afore ſaid, to the officers and men on board, and two thirds to the uſe of the United Colonies.

Reſolved, That all ſhips or veſſels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandiſes, belonging to any inhabitant of G. Britain, as aforeſaid, which ſhall be taken by any veſſels of war fitted out by and at the expence of any of the United Colonies, ſhall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of ſeamen and mariners, as aforeſaid, in ſuch manner and proportion as the aſſembly or convention of ſuch colony ſhall direct.

Reſolved, That all veſſels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargoes, belonging to inhabitants of G. Britain, as aforeſaid, and all veſſels which may be employed in carrying ſupplies to the miniſterial armies, which ſhall happen to be taken near the ſhores of any of theſe colonies, by the people of the country, or detachments from the army, ſhall be deemed lawful prize; and the court of admiralty within the ſaid colony is required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge, that all charges and expences which may attend the capture and trial, be firſt paid out of the monies ariſing from the ſales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all thoſe who ſhall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the ſaid prize. Provided, That where any detachments of the army ſhall have been employed as aforeſaid, their part of the prize-money ſhall be diſtributed among them in proportion

portion to the pay of the officers and ſoldiers ſo employed.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec."

Puniſhments have been inflicted on perſons who have diſregarded the reſolution of the congreſs relating to its bills of credit. [133.]

"*London*, *April* 20. A correſpondent has ſent us a genuine anecdote, by the help of which, we imagine, the good people of G. Britain may be enabled to form an eſtimate of the preſent ſtate of paper-credit and perſonal freedom in North America. — A gentleman, a native of Old England, who was on the eve of his departure from North America, had a horſe which he wanted ſpeedily to diſpoſe of: He therefore advertiſed it in the news-papers to be ſold for ten Britiſh guineas, or twenty guineas Congreſs paper money. In conſequence of which, the congreſs have voted him inimical to the liberties of North America; and he will, in all probability, end his days in a priſon. Our correſpondent adds, if this be American liberty, 'tis liberty with a vengeance!!!"

"*London*, *May* 18. In January laſt, a trader at New York imported a cargo from the Weſt Indies, which he expected would have turned to good account; but when the money came due he was offered continental paper-currency. Not approving it, he demanded a return of his goods; which was refuſed; and he was taken before ſome of the ſelf-conceited rulers; who gave him his choice, to take the currency, or be ſent for a ſoldier. Refuſing ſtill to take it, he was accordingly ſent to ſerve at Maſſachuſet's-bay: but though he did not like his ſituation, he was ſtill more diſguſted at his officers; the captin of the company in which he was to ſerve being a tripeman, the lieutenants a boxmaker and a jobbing farrier, and the enſign a convict from England, who had been on his travels about four years. The injured trader, therefore, took the firſt opportunity to deſert, got to Boſton, and imbarked on board the fleet when they left that place."

"*London*, *May* 31. The congreſs have ſeized the books, and ſhut up the ſtores, of ſeveral Quakers at Philadelphia, who were capital traders, but who were unwilling to accept the congreſs-paper in payment of their goods."

"*Savannah*, *in Georgia*, *Feb.* 14. The Governor, with his family, left this place laſt Sunday night, and went on board the Scarborough, lying at Tybee."

"*Savannah*, *Feb.* 21. The following is a copy of the Governor's letter, which was read on Friday laſt at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and diſtrict of Savannah.

"On his Majeſty's ſervice.

To the Hon. James Mackay, Eſq; and the reſt of the Members of his Majeſty's Council, at Savannah.

On board his Majeſty's ſhip Scarborough, at Cockſpur, Feb. 13. 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen,

AFTER uſing my beſt endeavours for upwards of three weeks to prevail on thoſe in whoſe hands the preſent ruling powers are, that the commanders of his Majeſty's ſhips here might obtain aſſurances, that they might come to town, and have a free intercourſe with me, without receiving any inſults from the people aſſembled in and about town; alſo that the King's ſhips might be ſupplied with proviſions, on paying the full price or value of it; and finding that the laſt meſſage relative to theſe matters, which I deſired the repreſentatives of the town of Savannah to deliver to the perſons exerciſing theſe powers, was ſo lightly treated, and little regarded, as that, although delivered on Tueſday morning the 6th inſtant, yet I received no kind of anſwer to it for five days, or did I underſtand whether it was meant to give me any anſwer or not; and well knowing that it was eſſential to his Majeſty's ſervice, and the welfare of this province, that I ſhould have an interview with the King's officers here: for theſe reaſons, and many others which you were made acquainted with, and approved of, I determined in all events to attempt coming down here; where I arrived ſafe at three o'clock yeſterday morning. And, after having examined and duly weighed and conſidered my ſeveral letters from England, and General Howe at Boſton, and after having had a full converſation with his Majeſty's officers here, I have the great ſatisfaction to be able to affirm, from the beſt authority, that the forces now here will not commit any hoſtilities againſt this province, although full ſufficient to reduce and overcome every oppoſition that could be attempted to be made; and that nothing is meant, or wanted, but a friendly intercourſe, and a ſupply of freſh proviſions.

proviſions. This may be entirely relied upon; this his Majeſty's officers have an undoubted right to expect, and what they inſiſt upon; and this I not only now ſolemnly require, in his Majeſty's name, but alſo as (probably) *the beſt friend the people of Georgia have*, adviſe them without the leaſt heſitation to comply with; or it may not be in my power to inſure them the continuance of the peace and quietude they now have, if it may be called ſo.

His Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to grant me leave to return to England; and (whatever may be thought) my regard for the province and people is ſuch, that I cannot avoid (and poſſibly for the laſt time) exhorting the people to ſave themſelves and their poſterity from that total ruin and deſtruction which (although they may not, yet) I muſt clearly ſee is at the threſhold of their doors; and I cannot leave them without again warning them, in the moſt earneſt and friendly manner, to deſiſt from their preſent plans and reſolutions. It is ſtill in their power; and if they will enable me to do it, I will (as far as I can) engage to give, and endeavour to obtain for them, full pardon and forgiveneſs for all paſt crimes and offences: and this I conjure them to conſider well, and moſt ſeriouſly of, before it is too late. But, let things happen as they may, be it remembered, that I this day, in the King's name, offer the people of Georgia the olive-branch, that moſt deſirable object, and ineſtimable bleſſing, the return of peace and happineſs to them and their poſterity.

Capt. Barclay has deſired me to notify, that he is willing and ready to give every aſſiſtance in his power to the captains of all ſuch merchant-ſhips as may be legally cleared out, to enable them to proceed on their reſpective voyages. I am alſo to acquaint you, that the detention of the ſchooner on Friday or Saturday laſt proceeded entirely from a miſtake by the officer who commanded the armed ſloop, and that, if the owner will ſend down, the ſchooner will not only be delivered up, but any reaſonable price paid for the damaged rice that was on board, part of which has been uſed to feed hogs and poultry; or they may take it away again. I am alſo to mention, that the ſame armed ſloop will be ſent up to-morrow to Four-mile-point, in order to get freſh water, and for no other purpoſe.

This letter, which I conſider as of the utmoſt conſequence and importance to the whole people of Georgia, I muſt deſire you will be pleaſed to communicate to the congreſs, if ſitting; and if not, to thoſe who are called the council of ſafety; and eſpecially to the inhabitants of the town and province in general; and acquaint them, that I ſhall expect their full and clear anſwer to every part of it in a reaſonable time.

I am, with perfect eſteem, Gentlemen, your moſt obedient and faithful ſervant,

JA. WRIGHT."

The Anſwer of the Congreſs to the Governor's letter, addreſſed to the Members of his Majeſty's Council.

"*Savannah, Feb.* 17. 1776.

"GENTLEMEN,

THE letter which you laid before Congreſs from his Excellency the Governor, who ſuddenly and unexpectedly left us, has been conſidered with all that attention which the ſerious nature of the ſubject demanded. On the one hand, we feel the moſt inexpreſſible reluctance and pain, in being obliged to conſider thoſe as enemies whom we but lately loved as friends and fellow-citizens; and on the other, we find ourſelves neceſſitated by the laws of ſelf-preſervation and defence, in ſome meaſure to regulate our conduct by that idea.—His Excellency acquaints you, that a very conſiderable force, both by ſea and land, is arrived at Cockſpur, and it ſeems no addition to both is daily expected; but that, for the preſent, they do not mean to commit any act of hoſtility againſt this province. What their views there are, we are much at a loſs to determine; ſince the appearance of ſuch an armament, certainly implies a deſign againſt ſomewhere. Perhaps their firſt and immediate operation may not be againſt this province; but are we not to conſider ourſelves as a part of the whole? and is not this very errand to enforce thoſe meaſures which we have united to oppoſe? Under this view we appeal to all mankind, whether it would not be treachery, and a mean deſertion of the cauſe, were we voluntarily (let the conſequences be what they may) to contribute any thing to their aſſiſtance which we can with-hold? You may believe us, Gentlemen, when we tell you, we want words to expreſs the concern we feel at the ſituation of this province; we know the inconveniencies that muſt ariſe

from a diſſolution of order and government, and could only chuſe ſuch a ſtate as the alternative of a greater evil: our concern is alſo much increaſed, when, as a conſequence, we find ourſelves drove to the neceſſity of ſetting up a diſtinction between Engliſhmen and Americans, and of denying the former what we would cheerfully grant the latter. It would be needleſs and endleſs to enumerate the meaſures that have brought on this ſituation; ſuffice it to ſay, that on our parts we have deſired, and do now deſire, nothing but the rights of Engliſhmen; and are firmly and obſtinately determined to ſacrifice every thing to the purchaſe of them.—By his Excellency's letter to you we find two things are required by the commander of the forces below; a friendly intercourſe, and ſupply of freſh proviſions. As to the former, when you reflect upon the jealouſies and ſuſpicions that have taken poſſeſſion of the mind on both ſides of the queſtion, you will readily agree with us, that it is not only impoſſible, but alſo, if attempted, might, from a ſmall act of imprudence or inadvertence on either ſide, precipitate the ſcene we ſo much deprecate. And as to the latter, we hope our reaſons and apprehenſions before aſſigned will ſufficiently juſtify us, in diſſenting from the ſame. This we mean as to the forces in general: the Scarborough man of war being a ſtationed ſhip, and the captain having declared he has only come to protect the trade, and not with any hoſtile intentions againſt this province, we look upon in quite a different point of light, and have accordingly wrote to Capt. Barclay, that we have no objection to his being ſupplied from time to time with ſuch articles of proviſions as the town affords, ſo long as the perſons and properties of the inhabitants remain unmoleſted. All we requeſt of him is, that he would be pleaſed to do it through the medium of an agent or commiſſary in town, and by a boat to be kept for that purpoſe, manned with people belonging to the place. This caution we think neceſſary, as you know the town is at preſent filled with men whoſe zeal or imprudence might perhaps carry them into exceſſes which we wish to prevent, ſhould they intermix with men of different principles from themſelves.

By order of the Congreſs,

ARCHIBALD BULLOCK, Preſident."

David Matthews, Eſq; received a letter from Governor Tryon, dated, *Ship Ducheſs of Gordon, North river, New York, March* 16. 1776, viz.

"SIR, I deſire you will lay before the gentlemen of the corporation the incloſed exhortation to the inhabitants of this colony, and that you will communicate the ſame to the public, and alſo have it inſerted in the ſeveral news-papers publiſhed in the city of New York. I am, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant,

WM. TRYON.

The exhortation appeared in the New-York Gazette of March 18. viz.

"To the Inhabitants of the Colony of New York.

NOTWITHSTANDING prejudice, deluſion, and faction, have hitherto, among too many, uſurped the ſeat of reaſon and reflection, and every exhortation I have offered to the inhabitants of this province, (in whoſe affection I have been taught to be happy), has been reviled, and treated with neglect; yet, as my wiſhes for their proſperity, and feelings for their calamities, cannot eaſily be ſuppreſſed, even towards the diſobedient, I cannot but repeat my endeavours to recal thoſe who have revolted from their allegiance, to a ſenſe of their duty; and to comfort thoſe who have been the objects of oppreſſion, for their zealous attachment to our happy conſtitution, and their ſteady obedience to the ſovereignty of the Britiſh empire.

It is in the clemency and authority of Great Britain only, under God, that we can look for happineſs, peace, and protection; and I have it in command from the King, to encourage, by every means in my power, the expectations in his Majeſty's well-diſpoſed ſubjects in this government, of every aſſiſtance and protection the ſtate of Great Britain will enable his Majeſty to afford them, and to cheriſh every appearance of a diſpoſition on their part to withſtand the tyranny and miſrule which accompany the acts of thoſe who have but too well hitherto ſucceeded in the total ſubverſion of legal government. Under ſuch aſſurances, therefore, I exhort all the friends to good order, and our juſtly-admired conſtitution, ſtill to preſerve that conſtancy of mind which is inherent in the breaſts of virtuous and loyal citizens; and I truſt a very few months will relieve them from their

their preſent oppreſſed, injured, and inſulted condition.

England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, have united to place their whole ſtrength, power, and confidence, in his Majeſty's hands. The numerous addreſſes from all parts of the King's dominions in Europe, ſpeak the loyalty and zeal with which his ſubjects there engage to ſupport his Majeſty in aſſerting and maintaining the juſt ſovereignty of the Britiſh empire over all its members.

The Britiſh ſtate moves not by ſudden and violent ſallies, nor wantonly oppreſſes: ſhe has lenity for her baſis, and is diſtinguiſhed for moderation and forbearance; but when her juſt indignation is roufed, the experience of other nations can teſtify her weight and force. It cannot be ſufficiently lamented, that the conduct of this country has called for ſo ſevere a rod; may a timely and dutiful ſubmiſſion avert its ſtroke.

I have the ſatisfaction to inform you, that a door is ſtill open to ſuch honeſt and deluded people, as ſhall avail themſelves of the juſtice and benevolence which the ſupreme legiſlature has held out to them, of being reſtored to the King's grace and peace, and that proper ſteps have been taken for paſſing a commiſſion for that purpoſe, under the great ſeal of Great Britain, in conformity to a proviſion in a late act of parliament; the commiſſioners thereby to be appointed, having alſo power to inquire into the ſtate and condition of the colonies, for effecting a reſtoration of public tranquillity. WM TRYON."

Foreigners are ſaid to aſſiſt the provincials.—A letter from New York, received about May 8. ſays, "The Flower of the Sea, an armed veſſel fitted out at this port, is arrived here, with ſeveral Pruſſian engineers on board, who are come on purpoſe to ſerve in the provincial army."

"*Philadelphia, March* 11. On Saturday laſt arrived here Baron de Woedkle, formerly a general officer in the Pruſſian ſervice."

Charleſtown, March 12. "Yeſterday a very ſharp engagement happened off this place, between an Engliſh frigate and two French ſhips of twenty guns each, that were laden with implements of war for the provincial army. The captain of the Engliſh frigate inſiſted on examining the Frenchmen, which they refuſing, an engagement enſued, which laſted about one hour and a half, when the frigate, having her maſts ſhot away, ceaſed firing; and the other two veſſels put in here, and landed their cargoes."

"*Liſbon, April* 13. Yeſterday ſix American veſſels, one of which mounted twenty-two guns, and was convoy for the others, ſailed from this port for Philadelphia. They were all laden with ammunition, military ſtores, &c. Each veſſel had a Portugueſe on board for a captain, and ſailed under Portugueſe colours."

"*London, May* 25. Letters from Philadelphia mention, that a French frigate of thirty-four guns lately arrived at that port, and landed three French gentlemen, who immediately waited on the congreſs."

"*Philadelphia, March* 19. The provincials have lately been plentifully ſupplied with arms and ammunition from foreign powers, in ſo much that they have a ſufficiency to ſerve them a conſiderable time. Two new powder-mills have been lately erected near this place, which make a conſiderable quantity of good powder every week. The people here are very deſirous of making peace with G. Britain, but on no other terms than what the congreſs ſhall think equitable."

"*London, May* 28. A letter received from Cadiz ſays, An American privateer is arrived at this port: ſhe brought diſpatches from the Congreſs for the court of Madrid. The above veſſel is frigate-built, mounts twenty-eight guns, nine pounders, and is commanded by Capt. James Blake."

"*London, April* 19. They write from the iſland of Jerſey, that on the 21ſt of laſt month, two American veſſels arrived at St Maloes, and unloaded their cargo in leſs than thirty hours. There were on board the ſaid veſſels two American gentlemen, thought to have come from the general congreſs, as they ſet off for Paris the day they arrived; and, as we are informed, were received as men of character, as they were at court, though they ſtaid only three days at Paris, and then returned on board the ſaid veſſels, which were loaded with powder and all ſorts of warlike ſtores while the gentlemen were at Paris, as every thing was in readineſs for their loading and unloading. They ſailed both together. They are about 280 tons burden each. There

are ſeveral others, at other ports, at this preſent, upon the ſame buſineſs."

"*London, April* 27. A letter from Antigua ſays, "His Majeſty's ſhip the Deal-caſtle, of twenty guns, on this ſtation, met with, at ſea, an American veſſel deeply laden with warlike ſtores of all kinds from St Maloes in France, for the uſe of the American army, and brought her into this port. She had on board ſeveral American people of property, who had been at France on ſome important buſineſs; and when the above veſſel left St Maloes, four others, laden with ſimilar cargoes, were preparing to ſet ſail."

The account of the ſeizure of the Dickenſon, a ſhip belonging to the congreſs [215.], was publiſhed in a *Briſtol Journal extraordinary, April* 8. with the following intelligence ſubjoined.

"The following veſſels ſailed the ſame time the Dickenſon did, all bound for different ports in France, and on the ſame buſineſs; but as ſhe is a very ſwift ſailer, ſhe left them ſoon after they put to ſea; the ſhip Sally, Rowland; Neptune, Collins; Aurora, Checky; and three brigs, captains names Montgomery, Bethel, and Martin, and many other veſſels, the names of which are forgot.

About three weeks before the Dickenſon left Philadelphia, a French nobleman (who with another of the ſame nation had been ſome time treating with the continental congreſs, and had viſited the camp of the grand army at Cambridge, in New England) had put his baggage on board her, and was to have gone paſſenger to Nantz: but as ſhe was very deep laden, and another veſſel in the ſame employ arriving there in ballaſt, he had all his effects removed on board the laſt, and is ſuppoſed to be now on his paſſage for France. The day they came down Deleware river, a French veſſel, laden with powder, ball, and ſmall arms, arrived there.

Philadelphia, Feb. 16. The following is a true liſt of the privateers fitted out here by order of the congreſs laſt January, with the commanders names and their force. They ſailed about the middle of February laſt, on an expedition kept as a profound ſecret, viz.

Hopkins, Commander in Chief.

The Alfred, Tatterſon, 32 guns, 300 men; the Columbus, Whipple, 32 guns, 300 men; the Andrew Doria, Biddle, 16 guns, 200 men; the Sebaſtian, Hopkins, 14 guns, 200 men; the Providence, Hazard, 12 guns, 150 men.

Row-gallies in the river Delaware, with the commanders names: The Waſhington, (104 feet in keel), Doughty, commander in chief; the Dickenſon, Rice; the Chatham, Alexander; the Camden, Ears; the Burke, Blear; the Effingham, Moar; the Bull Dog, Henderſon; the Franklin, Boyce; the Congreſs, Hambilton; the Experiment, Thompſon; the Ranger, M'Gomary; the Hancock and Adams, Moore; and the Warren, (no maſter when Capt. Meſton ſailed).

The congreſs have ordered thirteen frigates to be built with all expedition, of 36 guns each, at Maryland, Philadelphia, and Rhode Iſland, four of which were on the ſtocks at Philadelphia when Captain Meſton ſailed. Likewiſe one floating battery of 105 feet in keel, which is to mount 18 eighteen-pounders, row fifty oars, and carry 500 men; alſo 30 fire-rafts. They have ſunk 50 chevaux de frizes in the river, to prevent the Engliſh ſhips from going up."

The veſſels which the provincials ſend out as merchantmen are the property of the congreſs, as are alſo their cargoes; ſo that when any of them are taken, the loſs falls upon the community, and not upon any private perſon.

The following letter is ſaid to have been ſent to Gen. Howe, from a member of the Council at New York.

"SIR, *New York, Feb.* 11. 1776.

As I have not a doubt of my laſt letters to adminiſtration convincing them, that this city and province is the only ſpot in America for carrying on the war with effect againſt the rebels; and that, in conſequence, the forces expected this ſpring, as well as thoſe now under your command, will be ordered hither; it may be neceſſary and adviſeable to ſend the army through the ſound between Connecticut and Long Iſland. Of the latter it may be proper to give a deſcription: it is 130 miles long, is very fertile, abounding in wheat and every other kind of corn, innumerable black cattle, ſheep, hogs, &c.; is very populous; and Suffolk county in particular, as well as the other parts of it, all good and loyal ſubjects; of which they have lately given proof, and only wait to be aſſiſted by the King's troops. The iſland has a plain on it at leaſt twenty-four miles long,

long, which has a fertile country about it, is twenty miles diſtant from the city of New York; Connecticut oppoſite to it; New Jerſey about thirty miles diſtant; Philadelphia 110, Maryland 130, Rhode-Iſland 150 miles: ſo that in this fertile iſland the army can ſubſiſt without any ſuccour from England or Ireland; and from their incampment on the above plain, they can in five or ſix days invade and reduce any of the above colonies at pleaſure. Add to theſe great advantages, that the poſſeſſion of the Narrows and Nutton iſland, would be the deſtruction of this city. But of this I think there would be no need, for all the principal inhabitants are at heart with the crown; particularly all my brethren, the members of the council, and moſt of the aſſembly [xxxvii. 120. 354.]; but as the mob now commands, prudence forbids them to declare, without a military force. You have many perſons with you who are well acquainted with the navigation of the ſound. The ſpot which I adviſe you to land at is Cow bay."

The King's army, after having been in a manner beſieged in Boſton [xxxvii. 306.] ſince hoſtilities were begun at Lexington in April 1775, evacuated that town in March 1776.

"*Providence, March* 10. Our folks have now poſſeſſion of Dorcheſter-hill. I returned hither from the camp yeſterday afternoon, where I went on purpoſe to ſee the ſituation of our troops. They have now poſſeſſion of all the hills that are round Boſton, except Noodle's iſland; and as ſoon as they take that, they can drive the troops of butchers into the ſea. We have now at our camp 30,000 men ready for action: 5000 men are drawn off, and headed by Gen. Putnam, beſides volunteers, to enter Boſton at a moment's warning, and boats are ready-made for that purpoſe. You may depend that Boſton will be delivered up to us, or elſe taken by force, in fourteen days. The bets are five to one for it. Our forts will look over them on every ſide; and their having poſſeſſion of the boaſted Bunker's hill is rather an injury to the Britiſh troops, as they are obliged to keep a large force there to defend it. I have been within three ſixteenths of a mile of Boſton: they find that our troops get faſt toward them: they are now moving off from Boſton, as they know they muſt fall victims to the rage of an injured people. An hour before I left the camp, they ſent out a flag of truce, ſigned by the ſelectmen, that if our army would ceaſe hoſtilities, they would leave Boſton in four days. Gen. Waſhington returned them no anſwer, and laſt night cannon were heard the moſt of the night, and it is thought our troops had taken the Point of Dorcheſter; if ſo, it is impoſſible they ſhould live in Boſton three days. They want to carry off their artillery and ſtores; and our people would rather ſacrifice a thouſand lives than they ſhould: I think they will give them the deciſive blow in two or three days. When our troops threw their bombs into Boſton there was a general conſternation in the town, and they could not get their men out to battle. They are in a bad box. The hill was taken in a curious manner: 500 bundles of ſcrewed hay ſecured their paſs to the hill; and, on their getting there, they erected the timber already framed for the intrenchments, and provided themſelves with barrels and hogſheads of ſand, headed up, in order to be rolled down the hill, and break their regularity if they ſhould come out. Every thing was conducted to the aſtoniſhment of our people, as well as the regulars, who muſt know, that in one night our troops had made an almoſt impregnable fortreſs. We go on glorioufly."

"*New York, March* 15. To-day an expreſs arrived from the eaſtward, — to-night the poſt. My advices are, that on the night of the 2d inſt. (Saturday), we threw three bombs into Boſton from Litchmore's Point,—the enemy returned a number. —Two ſeven-inch, one ten-inch mortar, and the Congreſs, burſt; the latter after firing twice or thrice. — Two or three bombs thrown in from Roxbury, and two twenty-four pounders fired—nothing in return. — Monday 4th, at night, took poſſeſſion of Dorcheſter with 2000 men, under General Thomas, and 300 carts; before morning had an aſtoniſhing work completed on the top of each of the two greateſt heights; ſome of the carts made three trips, others two, without interruption; the night amazingly favourable. — Three of our men killed; — firing on both ſides. —The two hills we have taken poſſeſſion of command the front of Boſton, and ſouth ſide of the harbour. At noon, the 5th, the enemy made a weak ineffectual fire for two hours. In the evening they imbarked about 2000 men in five tranſports, and

and ſent them down towards the caſtle; a floating battery was alſo towed down: before they reached the caſtle, the wind blew up freſh at ſouth, and forced three of the tranſports aſhore on Governor's iſland, where they lay all night.—The 6th all quiet. In the evening many ſoldiers were landed from the tranſports in front of the town. The ſelectmen of Boſton, or ſome of the principal inhabitants, apprehending Howe was about to imbark, deſired him not to deſtroy the town upon his leaving it. He told them, he would not if Gen. Waſhington would not diſturb them in their imbarkation.—They deſired leave to go out with a flag to tell him ſo;—granted.—Don't hear that he made any promiſe; and I do not ſuppoſe he will, for it is undoubtedly a trick of Howe's, in order to get away his cannon and ſtores as well as men.—A letter to our congreſs, I am informed, intimates, that Gen. Waſhington apprehends the enemy will decamp, and ſteer for this city:—our works are going on; and if they come, hope we ſhall be ready for them."

"*Whitehall, May* 3. Gen. Howe, commander in chief of his Majeſty's forces in North America, having taken a reſolution, on the 7th of March, to remove from Boſton to Halifax, with the troops under his command, and ſuch of the inhabitants, with their effects, as were deſirous to continue under the protection of his Majeſty's forces; the imbarkation was effected on the 17th of that month, with the greateſt order and regularity, and without the leaſt interruption from the rebels. When the packet came away, the firſt diviſion of the tranſports was under ſail, and the remainder were preparing to follow in a few days; the Admiral leaving behind as many of the ſhips of war as could be ſpared from the convoy, for the ſecurity and protection of ſuch veſſels as might be bound to Boſton." *Lond. gaz.*

Gen. Waſhington gave an account to Brig.-Gen. Lord Sterling, then at New York, in a letter, viz.

"My Lord, *Cambridge, Mar.* 19. 1776.

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 11th inſtant, to give you my congratulations upon your appointment by the Honourable Congreſs. If the inteligence is true, and to be depended on, which was brought by the gentleman to New York, I think, with you, that we ſhall have an opportunity of ſecuring, and putting the continent in a tolerable poſture of defence; and that the operations of the ſummer's campaign will not be ſo terrible as we were taught to expect, from the accounts and denunciations which the miniſtry have held forth to the public.

I have the pleaſure to inform you, that, on the morning of the 17th inſtant, Gen. Howe, with his army, abandoned Boſton without deſtroying it; an event of much importance, which muſt be heard with great ſatisfaction; and that we are now in full poſſeſſion. Their imbarkation and retreat were hurried and precipitate; and they have left behind them ſtores, of one thing and another, to a pretty conſiderable amount, among which are ſeveral pieces of heavy cannon, and one or two mortars, which are ſpiked. The town is in a much better ſituation, and leſs injured, than I expected, from the reports I have received; though, to be ſure, it is much damaged, and many houſes deſpoiled of their valuable furniture.

The fleet is ſtill in King and Nantaſket roads: and where they intend to make a deſcent next, is altogether unknown; but, ſuppoſing New York to be an object of great importance, and to be in their view, I muſt recommend your moſt ſtrenuous and active exertions in preparing, to prevent any deſigns or attempts they may have formed, or make againſt it. I have detached the riflemen and five battalions from hence to your aſſiſtance, which will be followed by others, as circumſtances will allow.—Theſe, with what forces you have, and can aſſemble, if there ſhould be any occaſion, I truſt, will be ſufficient to hinder the enemy from poſſeſſing the city, or making a lodgement, till the main body of this army can arrive.

I am, my Lord, with great eſteem,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
GEORGE WASHINGTON."

"*Boſton harbour, March* 22. The General had a meeting on the 10th inſtant of all the general and field officers, when it was unanimouſly agreed to leave Boſton, as we had not proviſion to laſt three weeks. We were a week employed in getting our artillery, ſtores, &c. on board the different ſhips, and making the neceſſary preparations for our retreat. On the 17th inſtant we all imbarked on board our ſhips, without the leaſt moleſtation. Gen. Howe covered our retreat with the

grenadiers

grenadiers and light infantry. — Several methods were tried to bring the rebels to an engagement before we left Boſton, but all to no purpoſe. We are inclined to think the reaſon of their not obſtructing us in our retreat, was for fear of our burning the town; which, had they fired a ſingle ſhot, would have been done. — Several inhabitants have fitted up veſſels, and are going with us. We have blown up Caſtle William, which commands the entrance into the harbour.

"*London, May* 7. A paſſenger from Boſton gives the following account of the tranſactions there, previous to the evacuation of it by General Howe. — "On the 2d of March the provincials began to bombard the town from a place called Phipps's Farm, and on the 3d they opened a twenty-four pound battery on Dorcheſter Neck, which annoyed the army exceedingly. On the 5th, Gen. Howe imbarked ſix regiments to attack this battery; but a ſtrong eaſterly wind preventing the men of war from covering and ſupporting them, it was thought adviſeable to deſiſt. The next day he renewed the attempt; but found the work ſo ſtrong, that he returned without effecting any thing. In the mean time the provincials had thrown near a hundred bombs into the town, and fired with conſiderable execution from their battery. Gen. Howe therefore got ſome of the ſelectmen to go out to Gen. Waſhington, to inform him, that if the firing continued, he muſt ſet fire to the town to cover his retreat. Two of the ſelectmen returned; and having communed with Gen. Howe, went back, and the firing immediately ceaſed. — Gen. Howe then began his imbarkation. The refugee inhabitants went firſt, not being ſuffered to carry any thing but neceſſaries. The mortars and heavy artillery could not be imbarked: theſe therefore they endeavoured to burſt, by charging them full with powder, and firing it off; but this did not anſwer their wiſhes. They attempted alſo to deſtroy all the ſmall arms belonging to the town. While this work was going on, a deſerter from the provincial camp informed Gen. Howe on the 16th, that Gen. Waſhington was preparing for a general ſtorm. Upon this intelligence, the General, and all the troops immediately imbarked, leaving the artillery, ſtores, &c. damaged only as the hurry and confuſion would permit. It now appeared by the movements of the provincial army, that they were taking ſtations upon Hog and Noddle iſlands, and preparing to attack Caſtle William. If they had ſucceeded in this, they would have had the command of Boſton harbour, and deſtroyed the fleet. Gen. Howe, therefore, diſmantled and blew up Caſtle William, and then fell down with the whole fleet into Nantaſket road, which is an open and expoſed ſtation. The tranſports were moſtly ſmall ſchooners, under the protection of three men of war. They were without proviſions; and Halifax, to which they were deſtined, had been threatened with an inſurrection from the ſcarcity that prevailed there. The terms of agreement between the two Generals were ſecret; but it is ſuppoſed that nothing was to have been deſtroyed, and that this breach of it determined the provincials to ſtorm the town."

"*From an officer on board the Pacific Indiaman, in Boſton harbour, dated March* 25. *to his friend in Edinburgh.* About three weeks ago the rebels opened a heavy cannonade and bombardment on the town of Boſton, from the neighbouring heights, which they continued for ſeveral ſucceſſive nights. On the 6th inſtant Gen. Howe held a council of war, wherein it was determined, that next morning the enemy ſhould be attacked on Dorcheſter neck; and a large detachment from our army were imbarked on board of tranſports and flat-bottomed boats for that purpoſe. But when they were about to land, the wind blew ſo hard as rendered the diſimbarkation impoſſible. When the day dawned, it was perceived that the enemy were ſo numerous, and ſo ſtrongly fortified and intrenched, even beyond belief, that it was judged prudent to deſiſt from the attempt. Had we proceeded, the affair muſt have been very bloody: no leſs than 12,000 of the rebels were ready prepared to defend their redoubts. However, our diſpoſition was ſuch as would, in all human probability, have inſured victory. The grenadiers were to have attacked in columns, with fixed bayonets, and had ſtrict orders not to fire a ſhot: The light infantry were to have covered the flanks of the grenadiers columns, who were to have been ſupported by ſeveral regiments. — On this day ſe'ennight the General was pleaſed to order a retreat; which was effected with the utmoſt regularity.

gularity. Nor did the rebels enter the town for above an hour after it was evacuated. We have brought off all our cannon, all our artillery-ſtores, all our proviſions, and every thing elſe which could be of advantage to the rebels. Our army, together with the women and children, and almoſt all the friends of government who were in town, are now on board of tranſports. Our deſtination is not yet made known."

"*Boſton harbour, March* 18. The General iſſued a proclamation, addreſſed to all the inhabitants, aſſuring thoſe that choſe to leave the town with him, that he would provide them veſſels to carry them off, with their goods. My family accordingly went on board the Richmond, Capt. Rogers, which is to ſail to-morrow morning, under convoy of his Majeſty's ſhip Fowey, for Halifax. No ſcheme could have been better thought of than carrying off the troops. — We are told that there is not one month's proviſions here, and that the troops are to go directly to the ſouthward. Their removal gives new life to the rebels, and will much encourage their leaders, as they will affirm that the troops, ſo far from getting into the country, could not keep the town of Boſton. The General has brought off all the linens, checks, woollens, and whatever he judged would be ſerviceable to the rebel-army."

"*From on board one of the tranſports off Nantucket, March* 25. We were cannonaded fourteen days by the provincial army, and at laſt, after many loſſes, imbarked on board ſeveral veſſels, and are got thus far. The provincials fired eighteen pounders, and threw an innumerable quantity of ſhells into the town. We do not know where we are going, but are in great diſtreſs. The ſpectacle is truly terrible. I wiſh I was with you. The provincials, after we left Boſton, marched into it with drums beating, and colours flying."

"*Cambridge, March* 27. We have got the orderly book belonging to the garriſon at Boſton: by which it appears, that Gen. Howe had 7575 effective men, excluſive of the ſtaff; ſo that, with the marines and ſailors, he might be conſidered as 10,000 ſtrong. The number of cannon he left behind him amounts to more than 200. About thirty of them are good."

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Eſq; General and Commander in Chief of the forces of the Thirteen United Colonies.

WHEREAS the Miniſterial army has abandoned the town of Boſton, and the forces of the United Colonies under my command are in poſſeſſion of the ſame, I have therefore thought it neceſſary, for the preſervation of peace, good order, and diſcipline, to publiſh the following orders, that no perſon, offending therein, may plead ignorance as an excuſe of their miſconduct.

All officers and ſoldiers are hereby ordered to live in the ſtricteſt peace and amity with the inhabitants; and no inhabitant, or other perſon, employed in his lawful buſineſs in the town, is to be moleſted in his perſon or property, on any pretence whatever.

If any officer or ſoldier ſhall preſume to ſtrike, impriſon, or otherwiſe ill-treat any of the inhabitants, they may depend on being puniſhed with the utmoſt ſeverity; and if any officer or ſoldier ſhall receive any inſult from any of the inhabitants, he is to ſeek redreſs in a legal way, and no other.

Any non-commiſſioned officer or ſoldier, or others under my command, who ſhall be guilty of robbing or plundering in the town, are to be immediately confined, and will be moſt rigidly puniſhed. All officers are therefore ordered to be very vigilant in the diſcovery of ſuch offenders, and report their names and crimes to the commanding officer in the town, as ſoon as may be.

The inhabitants, and others, are called upon, to make known to the quartermaſter-general, or any of his deputies, all ſtores belonging to the Miniſterial army, that may be remaining or ſecreted in the town. Any perſon or perſons whatever that ſhall be known to conceal any of the ſaid ſtores, or appropriate them to his or their own uſe, will be conſidered as an enemy to America, and treated accordingly.

The ſelectmen and other magiſtrates of the town, are deſired to return to the Commander in Chief the names of all or any perſon or perſons they may ſuſpect of being employed as ſpies upon the Continental army, that they may be dealt with accordingly.

All officers of the Continental army are injoined to aſſiſt the civil magiſtrates in

in the execution of their duty, and to promote peace and good order. They are to prevent, as much as poſſible, the ſoldiers from frequenting tippling-houſes, and ſtrolling from their poſts. Particular notice will be taken of ſuch officers as are inattentive and remiſs in their duty; and, on the contrary, ſuch only as are active and vigilant will be entitled to future favour and promotion.

Given under my hand, at head quarters, in Cambridge, the 21ſt day of March, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

In an article, dated, Boſton, March 29. we have an addreſs of the Hon. Council and Houſe of Repreſentatives of Maſſachuſet's-bay to Gen. Waſhington, on the ſucceſs of the arms of the colonies, "without that effuſion of blood which they ſo much wiſhed to avoid," with his excellency's anſwer.—We inſert extracts, which exhibit an example of a diſintereſtedneſs well worthy of imitation.

"Convinced of the vaſt importance of having a gentleman of great military accompliſhments, to diſcipline, lead, and conduct the forces of the colonies, it gave us the greateſt ſatisfaction to hear, that the Honourable Congreſs of the United Colonies had made choice of a gentleman thus qualified; who, leaving the pleaſure of domeſtic and rural life, was ready to undertake the arduous taſk. And your nobly declining to accept the pecuniary emoluments annexed to this high office [xxxvii. 435.], fully evidenced to us that a warm regard to the ſacred rights of humanity, and ſincere love to your country, ſolely influenced you in the acceptance of this important truſt." *Addreſs.*

"When the councils of the Britiſh nation had formed a plan for enſlaving America, and depriving her ſons of their moſt ſacred and invaluable privileges, againſt the cleareſt remonſtrances of the conſtitution,—of juſtice, and of truth; and to execute their ſchemes, had appealed to the ſword; I eſteemed it my duty to take a part in the conteſt; and more eſpecially on account of my being called thereto by the unſolicited ſuffrages of the repreſentatives of a free people; wiſhing for no other reward, than that ariſing from a conſcientious diſcharge of the important truſt, and that my ſervices might contribute to the eſtabliſhment of freedom and peace, upon a permanent foundation, and merit the applauſe of my countrymen, and every virtuous citizen." *Anſwer.*

"*From a maſter at arms on board one of his Majeſty's ſhips in Boſton harbour, March* 23. The town of Boſton is now inhabited by about 15,000 provincial troops, who are fortifying that place in the ſtrongeſt manner, with the greateſt alacrity, under the direction of four Pruſſian, one French, and ſome American engineers. The army at Cambridge has been lately reinforced with 5000 freſh troops (recruits). The garriſon at Boſton have hoiſted a flag, which is kept continually flying, and has on it the following motto, AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN."

After the provincials had taken poſſeſſion of Boſton, they dug up the body of Dr Warren, where it was laid on Bunker's-hill [xxxvii. 378.], and interred it with great ſolemnity at Boſton.

"*Philadelphia, March* 31. On the 21ſt the congreſs came to the following reſolutions: That it be recommended to the ſeveral aſſemblies, conventions, and councils, or committees of ſafety, and committees of correſpondence and inſpection, That they exert their utmoſt endeavours to promote the culture of hemp, flax, and cotton, and growth of wool, in theſe United Colonies: That they take the earlieſt meaſures for erecting and eſtabliſhing, in each and every colony, a ſociety for the improvement of agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce, and to maintain a correſpondence between ſuch ſocieties, that the rich and numerous natural advantages of this country, for ſupporting its inhabitants, may not be neglected: That they do forthwith conſider of ways and means of introducing the manufactures of duck and ſail-cloth, and ſteel, into ſuch colonies where they are not now underſtood, and of encouraging, increaſing, and improving them, where they are: And as in the execution of the reſolve of March 14. reſpecting the diſarming of diſaffected perſons [246.], many fire-arms may be taken which may not be fit for uſe to arm any of the troops therein mentioned; therefore it is reſolved, That all the fire-arms ſo taken, being appraiſed according to ſaid reſolve, none of them ſhall be paid for but thoſe that are fit for the uſe of ſuch troops, or that may be conveniently ſo made; and the remainder ſhall be ſafely kept, for the owners, to be delivered to them when the congreſs ſhall direct."

NEW BOOKS. [212]

LONDON.

Religion, Morality, &c.

The Family-Preacher: Conſiſting of practical diſcourſes for every Sunday throughout the year: As alſo for Chriſtmas day, Good-Friday, and other ſolemn occaſions. By D. Bellamy, M. A. 4to. 1 l. 1 s. *Law.*—— It is now more than twenty years ſince Mr Bellamy's Family Preacher made its firſt appearance. A valuable collection. The author appears to have employed much pains in preparing this edition, and endeavouring to render it uſeful, as a good family-book. M.

A moral demonſtration of the truth of the Chriſtian religion; with an introduction on the nature and force of probable arguments. Firſt printed in 1660, and now accurately reprinted. 1 s. *Cadell.*—— The author was the eminent and excellent Dr Jeremy Taylor; and the republiſher, as we are informed, is Bp Hurd. M.

Sermons by the late Rev. Charles Peters, M. A. [author of a Critical diſſertation on the book of Job], publiſhed from his MSS. by his nephew Jon. Peters, M. A. 5 s. 3 d. in boards. *Bathurſt.*——Not elaborate compoſitions, abounding with ſtriking ſentiments, acute reaſoning, or critical inveſtigations; but plain and pious inſtructions, calculated for a country-congregation. There are, however, ſome few paſſages of the critical kind. In a diſcourſe on Micah vi. 8 the author adopts the opinion of Maimonides, who imagines, that the whole adventure of Balaam and his aſs paſſed only in a dream or viſion, like all other revelations which were made to him. C.

Sacred annals; or, The life of Chriſt, as recorded by the four Evangeliſts, with practical obſervations. By T. Morrell, D. D. 3 s. 6 d. *Longman.*——Compiled from the writings of Taylor, Locke, Cradock, Whiſton, Le Clerc, Lamy, Macknight, and other harmonizers of the goſpel, but particularly Dr Doddridge. Principally deſigned for the Sunday exerciſe of the young gentlemen educated at Eaton ſchool. C.

An eſſay on politeneſs; wherein the benefits ariſing from, and the neceſſity of, being polite, are clearly proved and demonſtrated, from reaſon, religion, and philoſophy. To which is prefixed, an allegorical deſcription of the origin of politeneſs. By a young gentleman. 1 s. *Law.*——We muſt take the liberty of giving this young gentleman a friendly advice: Let him not think of making his ſecond appearance before the public, till he has learned the full import of his own doctrine, that "politeneſs diſcourſes without affectation, and writes with freedom, eaſe, and native elegance." Since the foundation of all polite writing is claſſical purity of ſtyle, let him ſtudy the meaning of words, and the nature of grammatical conſtruction, till he can perceive the faults which occur in the firſt ſentence of his preface: "As this ſubject may be thought by many to be *ſufficiently* diſcuſſed in the letters of a late peer, *to need* any further treatiſe *thereupon*, I have been induced in this manner to aſk for *the impartiality of your candour*, in permitting this eſſay to paſs without cenſure through the hands of, *and be read by*, all thoſe *who think proper to let it undergo their peruſal; becauſe* the *intent* of this piece and of the above mentioned letters *are totally different*, as will clearly be obſerved by comparing them together." M.

A diſſertation on the duty of mercy, and ſin of cruelty, to brute animals. By Humphry Primatt, D. D. 4 s. boards. *Cadell.*—— Intoxicated by a vain idea of pre-eminence and ſuperiority, we are apt to look upon the inferior animals with contempt; and can hardly bring ourſelves to think, that we are under obligations of duty and gratitude to contribute to their eaſe and happineſs. The deſign of this tract is, to rectify theſe miſtaken notions; and to prove, that, as the mercies of the creator are over all his works, from the archangel to the worm, our benevolence and compaſſion are not to be confined within the circle of our friends, acquaintance, and neighbours; nor limited to the more enlarged ſphere of human nature, to creatures of our own rank, ſhape, and capacity; but are to be extended to every object endowed with life and ſenſation. C.

Hiſtory, Politics, &c.

A new ſyſtem; or, An analyſis of Ancient Mythology: Wherein an attempt is made to diveſt tradition of fable; and to reduce the truth to its original purity. In this work is given an hiſtory of the Babylonians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Canaanites, Helladians, Ionians, Leleges, Dorians, Pelaſgi; alſo of the Scythæ, Indo-Scythæ, Ethiopians, Phenicians. The whole contains an account of the principal events in the firſt ages, from the DELUGE to the DISPERSION; alſo of the various migrations which enſued, and the ſettlements made afterwards in different parts: circumſtances of great conſequence, which were ſubſequent to the GENTILE HISTORY OF MOSES. Vol. 3. [xxxvi. 201.] By Jacob Bryant. 4to. 1 l. 1 s. boards. *Payne.*——As Mr Bryant had ſhewn the certainty of an univerſal deluge, from the evidence of moſt nations to which we can gain acceſs, he comes now to give a hiſtory of the perſons who ſurvived that event, and of the families which were immediately deſcended from them.—The ſubject firſt treated of by

our author, is the the migration and diſperſion of nations. He had before ſhewn, that the ark reſted upon Mount Ararat, in a province of Armenia This was the region in which mankind firſt began to multiply, and from whence they afterwards proceeded to their different places of allotment. — What Mr Bryant hath advanced is ingenious; it is plauſible; perhaps, in certain reſpects, it may be found probable: nevertheleſs we muſt be permitted to ſay, with all due deference to his eminent abilities and literature, that he has given no little ſcope to conjecture and fancy M.

Letters from Italy, deſcribing the manners, cuſtoms, antiquities, paintings, &c. of that country, in the years 1770 and 1771. By an Engliſhwoman. 3 vols. 12 s. *Dilly.* —— This lady appears to have paid attention to the various objects which merit the particular obſervation of an inquiſitive ſtranger, and ſhe writes as a perſon even not unacquainted with the names and productions of ſome of the moſt celebrated Roman authors. C.

Memoirs of an unfortunate Queen. Interſperſed with letters written by herſelf, to ſeveral of her illuſtrious relations, &c. 3 s. *Bew.* —— In this truly Grubean, though not ill-written, performance, poor Matilda is made to turn *Authoreſs;* and the productions of her Daniſh Majeſty's pen are, it ſeems, 1. Familiar letters to friends, &c. 2. The ſtory of the unfortunate Ducheſs of Zell [xxxv. 642.], ſo ſimilar to her own unhappy tale. 3. An abridgement of the hiſtories of Charles XII. and the Czar Peter. 4. The adventures of the Chevalier Charles Stuart, pretender to the crown of England. 5. Characters of the Engliſh, French, and Danes; with brief deſcriptions of their ſeveral countries. — Theſe ſketches are tolerably drawn, after pretty good originals; and, on the whole, it is evident, from the promiſing ſpecimens before us, that if Carolina Matilda had not, unfortunately for herſelf, been made a QUEEN, ſhe might, in time, have arrived at the honour of being even a *Monthly Reviewer.* — N. B. The honeſt Grub is a warm advocate for the virtue and innocence of his heroine; in which he *may* be right; though it does not appear that he ever travelled to Copenhagen. M.

A fragment on government; being an examination of what is delivered, on the ſubject of government in general, in the introduction to Sir William Blackſtone's Commentaries: with a preface, in which is given a critique on the work at large. 3 s. 6 d. in boards. *Payne.* —— Examines the ſentiments of the learned author of the Commentaries on the following topics: formation of government, forms of government, Britiſh conſtitution, right of the ſupreme power to make laws, and duty of the ſupreme power to make laws. — This author is evidently a ſhrewd and acute antagoniſt, and he aims his remarks with peculiar addreſs againſt ſuch parts of the Commentaries as ſeem the moſt liable to objection. We wiſh, however, that we could not diſcover his principles to be warped with ſomething like prejudice, reſpecting the political ſubjects which have for ſome time engaged the attention of the public. C.

Thoughts on the preſent ſtate of the poor, and the intended bill for their better relief and employment. By a Kentiſhman. 1 s. *Conant.* —— Shews great humanity, as well as judgement, in the inveſtigation of this difficult ſubject. M.

Obſervations on the bill intended to be offered to parliament for the better relief and employment of the poor. In a letter to a member of parliament. By Richard Burn, L L. D 1 s. *Cadell* —— The mode of agitation for rendering the poor leſs burdenſome, which gave riſe to this pamphlet, is that of eſtabliſhing one or more workhouſes in every county. Dr Burn is of opinion, that ſundry regulations propoſed in the bill would be productive of inconvenience and expence. C.

An addreſs to the members of parliament upon the neceſſity of paſſing an act to confine the proprietors of ſtage-carriages, and porters to inns, to certain rates for the carriage and porterage of goods. 1 s. *Bew.*

America.

Three dialogues concerning liberty. 2 s. *Dodſley.* —— On the idea and extent of civil liberty, on the origin of civil government, and on religious liberty These Dialogues cannot fail of affording great pleaſure to ſuch readers as have a taſte for rational and unembarraſſed inveſtigations into theſe abſtracted, but important ſubjects. C.

Maſſachuſettenſis; or, A ſeries of letters, containing a faithful ſtate of many important and ſtriking facts, which laid the foundation of the preſent troubles in the province of Maſſachuſet's bay, &c. By a perſon of honour, upon the ſpot 2 s. *Matthews.* —— In the latter part of the year 1774, and in the beginning of 1775, a political controverſy was begun and carried on in the Boſton news-papers, between two gentlemen of conſiderable abilities, under the ſignatures of *Novanglus*, and *Maſſachuſettenſis.* The letters appertaining to the latter of theſe ſignatures (and written on the ſide of government) were afterwards collected, and publiſhed in a pamphlet, and are now reprinted from the Boſton impreſſion. M.

A ſhort appeal to the people of G Britain, upon the unavoidable neceſſity of the preſent war with our diſaffected colonies. 2 d. *Kearſley.* —— This conciſe and nervous

Appeal expoſes, in the ſtrongeſt colours, the falſehood and inconſiſtency of the declarations which the coloniſts have made towards juſtifying their oppoſition to the ſupreme authority of parliament. C.

Serious and impartial obſervations on the bleſſings of liberty and peace. Addreſſed to perſons of all parties. By a clergyman in Leiceſterſhire. 1 s. 6 d. *Rivington.* —— A well-diſpoſed religious old man, but his obſervations generally trite, ſuperficial, and unimportant. M.

Civil liberty aſſerted, and the rights of the ſubject defended, againſt the anarchial principles of Dr Price. By a friend to the rights of the conſtitution. 2 s. *Wilkie.* —— Replete with dogmatical aſſertions and ſlanderous invectives; contradicts all the fundamental principles of our own and other free governments, and without any ſemblance of proof or of argument, poſitively aſſerts, That "the whole of the people have not a right to model government;" and, That "the greater part of them have no right to interfere in matters of government at all;" that there is no defect of parliamentary repreſentation either in G. Britain or America; and that the coloniſts are now fully repreſented in the Britiſh parliament, and owe an unlimited obedience to all its acts and grants of their property: and upon this foundation he ſeverely cenſures the late American reſiſtance, and all who are ſuppoſed to have approved of it. To Dr Price he imputes "contemptible baſeneſs, unequalled effrontery, hellish falſehood, vile miſrepreſentation," &c. M.

A letter to Dr Price. By the author of the Defence of the American Congreſs, in reply to "Taxation no tyranny." 1 s. *Williams.* —— The ſpirited writer of this Letter (probably Mr N——e) applauds Dr Price's late publication; but diſſents from that part of it where, treating of the coloniſts, the Doctor ſays, "they are not our ſubjects, but our fellow ſubjects." It appears to him, he ſays, that they are "neither one nor the other;" and his reaſoning on this point is worthy of attention. M.

A further examination of our preſent American meaſures, and of the reaſons and principles on which they are founded. 3 s. *Baldwin.* —— Writes with greater coolneſs, accuracy, and force, than is generally to be met with among the advocates for the colonies. C.

A proſpect of the conſequences of the preſent conduct of G. Britain towards America. 1 s. 6 d. *Almon.* —— Reprobates the war carrying on againſt the coloniſts, as pregnant with injuſtice and ruin on the part of G. Britain. M.

The honour of the univerſity of Oxford, defended againſt the illiberal aſperſions of R——d B—e, Eſq; with pertinent obſervations on the preſent rebellion in America. 1 s. *Kearſley.* —— A tranſlation of the pamphlet, *De tumultibus Americanis*, &c. [105.], written by Dr B——. M.

A ſermon, preached before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Jan. 30. 1776. By James Lord Biſhop of St David's. 1 s. *White.* —— Adapted to the times, but conſiſting chiefly of general obſervations on the evils of civil diſcord, and the advantages of peace and union. M.

The American war lamented. Preached at Taunton, Feb. 18. & 25. 1776. By Joſhua Toulmin, M. A. 6 d. *Johnſon.* —— Takes an affecting view of the various evils and miſeries that will, inevitably, ſpring from the preſent unhappy ſocial war in the Britiſh colonies. In ſentiment the author appears to agree with Dr Price. M.

The plea of the colonies, on the charges brought againſt them by Ld M——d and others; in a letter to his Lordſhip. 1 s. *Almon.* —— Contains ſome ſpirited animadverſions on two ſpeeches delivered by a celebrated Law-Peer, in the beginning of the laſt ſeſſion of parliament.

After replying to thoſe parts of his Lordſhip's ſpeeches, wherein it was maintained, that the coloniſts, regardleſs of all orders and claſſes of men in G. Britain, were averſe from all terms of reconciliation, and aiming only at national independence and ſovereignty, the author proceeds:

"Hitherto we have only had occaſion to complain, that your Lordſhip has attempted to hurt the Americans, by blackening their reputation, and charging them with crimes of which they are *not guilty*. Your third poſition goes farther: you are not ſatisfied with painting them in dark colours, in order to ſink them in the eſteem of the moſt virtuous, and hitherto the moſt loyal part of this nation; you would follow them to the grave. Without evidence, and contrary to the cleareſt evidence, you are firſt pleaſed to ſuppoſe them guilty; you would then proceed to their execution. "The Americans," you ſay [79.], "have invaded Canada, they are acting on the offenſive; we are not to inquire who was the aggreſſor; we muſt proceed: if we do not kill them, they will kill us." On this occaſion we can hardly ſay which is the moſt conſpicuous, your Lordſhip's humanity, or your cloſe attachment to the hiſtory of facts: "The Americans are acting on the offenſive; if we do not kill them, they will kill us." This is curious, and perfectly new. On what principle does your Lordſhip ſuppoſe we can adopt this ſtory, while we retain a ſpark of common ſenſe? Have we not ſeen a map of that country? Have we not read the hiſtory of the preſent war? Your violence commenced by ſhutting up the ports of Boſton;

ſion; a fleet and army were ſent to intimidate and diſtreſs the inhabitants, till, by the pure dint of compulſion, like beaſts, and not like men, they ſhould give what they were not ſuffered to refuſe. They ſeemed to wince under the yoke! You then cut off their fiſhery; and, leſt *ſtarvation* ſhould make them more refractory, you ſent more troops. All America had been complaining, therefore it was reſolved that all America ſhould be reduced to a perfect ſtate of ſlavery. Their charters were to be aboliſhed, and they were to be held by military tenure. Such was your plan. The colonies were to be attacked by ſea and land; ſhips of war, regular troops, and ſlaves, were to deſtroy them on the coaſt, while the Canadians and ſavages were to aſſail them with fire and ſword from the wilderneſs. Never was any devoted people viſited, or like to be viſited, by ſuch a group of calamities, until cruelty became honourable, until tyranny was digeſted into a regular ſyſtem.

Does any miniſter or miniſterial man deny the charge? does he diſpute any part of this plan? Let him review Gen. Carleton's laſt commiſſion: your Lordſhip has already ſeen it once too often. For what purpoſe was he authoriſed to *arm* the Canadians, and them to *march* into any other of the *plantations*, and his Majeſty's rebellious ſubjects there to attack, and, *by God's help*, *them to defeat and put to death*. For what purpoſe did Guy Johnſon deliver black belts to all the Indian tribes in his diſtrict, and perſuade them to lift up the hatchet againſt the white people in the colonies? The congreſs is poſſeſſed of thoſe very war-belts; they have a copy of Gov. Carleton's commiſſion: they have long ſince been poſſeſſed of the whole plan.

What could they do in this dreadful dilemma? They muſt either deliver themſelves up to general carnage, or try to avert the impending ſtroke. The latter was moſt deſirable. But how was it to be done? Certainly not by acting on the defenſive in the manner your Lordſhip could have preſcribed, by ſtanding with their hands in their boſom; not by waiting till the Canadians had inveſted Albany, and the Indians had ſtruck the frontiers, and deſtroyed eight or ten thouſand women and children: that would have been acting in ſelf-defence to ſome purpoſe. Is an Indian war to be averted by ſuch means? Is a frontier of 1200 miles to be conſtantly guarded by a line of troops? It is not poſſible. The congreſs had more ſenſe than to attempt it. The ſword of Gov. Carleton was pointed at their boſom; they endeavoured to puſh in, and diſarm him. By that expedition, their hope was, that they ſhould protect their frontiers againſt the inroads of the ſavages, by taking poſſeſſion of the great avennes into their country; that they ſhould take the ſtores alſo which are neceſſary to an Indian war, and thus gain the friendſhip of the Indians. Surely theſe were meaſures which aroſe from the very idea of ſelf-defence; they were meaſures that pure neceſſity had forced upon the congreſs: for that reaſon they were not adopted till it was too late in the ſeaſon: they were afterwards purſued with that ſpecies of ardour which ſeldom ariſes but in a ſtate of deſperation.

It ſeems to be a matter of no conſequence, in your Lordſhip's opinion, who was the aggreſſor at the beginning of this diſpute, "We are in blood ſtep'd in ſo far, we muſt go on;"—"*unleſs we kill them, they will kill us.*" You have not been uſed to reaſon thus in caſes of leſs importance. Suppoſe a highwayman ſhould demand your Lordſhip's purſe, and, being armed, you ſhould refuſe to deliver; is he not at liberty to conſider, whether he has a clear right to your caſh, much leſs to your life alſo? Would it not be kind in him to put about his horſe, and ride off? That would be contrary to your Lordſhip's plan: he ſhould kill you, leſt, while he ſtaid to enforce his demand, you might chance to kill him.—The caſes are perfectly ſimilar: You have attempted to tax the Americans; they ſay you have no right to demand their money. Your demand is followed by threats, it is aggravated by repeated injuries. The American draws his ſword; he would die rather than ſubmit to the dangerous claim. What is to be done? Shall we inquire, Who was firſt in the wrong? Had we a clear right to tax the Americans? Had they loſt or forfeited their ancient privilege of taxing themſelves? Is our claim founded on the natural rights of mankind? Is it ſupported by uſage? The caſe is diſputed; it may be doubtful: had we not beſt withdraw our troops? by which means we ſhall preſerve the commerce and ſubjection of America; we ſhall ſave thouſands from death, and millions from ruin. Your Lordſhip ſays, No: we have begun the diſpute, and, juſt or unjuſt, we are bound to perſevere. We have croſſed the Rubicon; let us now croſs the Red ſea; let us wade in blood. In ſuch a cauſe, my Lord, and with ſuch principles, you may take the field againſt the Americans; but Heaven will not be numbered among your allies."

The reſt of this performance conſiſts chiefly of obſervations on the cauſes, operations, and events, of the preſent American war. M.

Natural Hiſtory, Medicine, Mathematics, &c.

An account of ſome German volcanos, and their productions. By R. E. Raſpe. 3s. 6d. in boards. *L. Davis.*——The author of this eſſay ſets out with giving a deſcription of the

the valley of Caſſel, reſpecting not only its external appearance, but likewiſe what is contained under the ſurface. He informs us, that the calcareous hills, eſpecially the Wineberg and Krazenberg, on which the city of Caſſel is ſituated, together with the Monkberg, which runs from the city to Upper-Vilmar, conſiſt of parallel ſtrata; that they dip in different inclinations to the ſouth, run in a north-weſt direction, and ſhew at a certain depth a hard marble-like limeſtone, which is broken into many vertical fiſſures, and filled with ſome ſcarce petrifications, or rather nuclei, of marine bodies, for the moſt part unknown; among which are the cornua ammonis, entrochi, and the like ſpecies of plants and animals that are found in the deepeſt ſeas. The author is therefore of opinion, that theſe calcareous ſtrata have anciently been the bottom of a ſea; but when, or for how many centuries, cannot poſſibly be determined; and that they have probably been ſhaken and ſplit by earthquakes, which have raiſed them to their preſent inclinations to the horizon. — Mr Raſpe afterwards deſcribes the Habichwald, and other mountains of the ſame nature, which are ſuperincumbent on calcareous ground; and he produces arguments for ſupporting the opinion that they have been accumulated by ſubterraneous fire.—" It is fact," ſays he, " that ſubterraneous fire, and its many ſucceſſive eruptions, have raiſed or heaped together the ſtill-burning Mount Ætna and Veſuvius on the limeſtone ſtrata in Sicily and Italy, accumulating both theſe mountains to an elevation, and to an extent, which even ſurpaſs that of the Habichwald. It ſtill continues to work in the volcanos in Iceland; and there is no good reaſon to deny the poſſibility of other European volcanos, ſituated between Iceland and Ætna, and burning in former times. There have been found of late many extinct volcanos in Italy, ſtampt with viſible marks of ancient burning, tho' never ſpoken of in hiſtory. Why ſhould not Germany then, as well as Italy, afford phænomena of the ſame nature? The ſea, which covered theſe parts, and many others in the continent, will not, I hope, be alledged againſt this ſuppoſition, and thrown upon it to quench the German volcanos; ſince the ſtill-burning volcanos are generally ſituated in the midſt of the ſea, in iſlands, or near the ſea-coaſt, and even ſeem to want ſea-water to raiſe, and to ſupport, their very flames. C. [xvi. 550. xxx. 185. 486.]

A treatiſe on cattle: ſhewing the moſt approved methods of breeding, rearing, and fitting for uſe, horſes, aſſes, mules, horned cattle, ſheep, goats, and ſwine; with directions for the proper treatment of them in their ſeveral diſorders: to which is added, a diſſertation on their contagious diſeaſes. Carefully collected from the beſt authorities, and interſperſed with remarks. By John Mills, Eſq; F. R. S. &c. 6 s. *Johnſon.* —— A very uſeful compilation, both from Engliſh and French writers. M.

An eſſay on glandular ſecretion; containing an experimental inquiry into the formation of pus; and a critical examination into an opinion of Mr John Hunter's, " That the blood is alive " By James Hendy, M D. 2 s. *Bell.* —— Adopts the hypotheſis of the late ingenious Mr Hewſon, reſpecting the uſe of the ſpleen and thymus gland. He endeavours to ſhew, that Mr Hunter's opinion expreſſed in the title-page is deſtitute of foundation: but he has treated the ſubject too ſuperficially to afford much ſatisfaction. M.

Directions for the management of children, from the time of their birth, to the age of ſeven years. By M. A. Clarke, M.D. and profeſſor of midwifery. 2 s. *Griffin.* —— This profeſſor merits a ſeverer puniſhment than any court of criticiſm has power to inflict. M.

The diſeaſes of children, and their remedies. By Nicholas Roſen von Roſenſtein. Tranſlated into Engliſh by Andrew Sparrman, M. D 8vo. *Cadell.* —— This work, which was originally written in the Swediſh language, has been known a few years on the continent as a treatiſe of diſtinguiſhed merit, and it affords us pleaſure to behold the ſphere of its utility enlarged by the preſent tranſlation, which appears to be done with care and fidelity. C.

Practical remarks on Weſt-India diſeaſes. 2 s. *Newbery.* —— It does not appear, that the practice which this writer recommends, differs much from that of the medical authors who have preceded him on the ſubject. C.

Letters relative to ſocieties for the benefit of widows and of age. 1 s. *Johnſon.* —— Firſt printed in the Gazetteer, in 1767 and 1768, and now republiſhed by Mr John Rowe, whoſe ſkill in calculations of the nature here propoſed, thoſe who are acquainted with his treatiſe on fluxions can have no reaſon to queſtion. Some ſocieties, he ſays, which according to the London tables ſhould be 7 l. 9 s. or according to the country tables 7 l. 14 s. *per ann.* engage to pay the widow 20 l. " What fatal conſequences muſt *ſuch* ſocieties in time produce! Ought they not immediately to *reform!*" M.

The Diarian Miſcellany: conſiſting of all the uſeful and entertaining parts, both mathematical and poetical, extracted from the Ladies Diary, from the beginning of that work in the year 1704, down to the year 1773; with many additional ſolutions and improvements, by Charles Hutton, F. R. S. profeſſor of mathematics in the royal military academy. 6 vols. 12mo. 1 l. 9 s. bound.

Robinſon.

Robinſon.——A truly valuable work. C.

The Nautical Almanack and Aſtronomical Ephemeris for 1777. Publiſhed by order of the commiſſioners of longitude. 3 s. 6 d. *Nourſe.*

Fine Arts, and Belles Lettres.

A general hiſtory of muſic, from the earlieſt ages to the preſent period. To which is prefixed, a diſſertation on the muſic of the ancients. By Charles Burney, Muſ. D. F. R. S. Vol. 1. 4to. 1 l. 11 s. 6 d. boards. *Becket, Robſon,* and *Robinſon.*——A great proficiency in the practice of any of the fine arts, is an accompliſhment which juſtly intitles thoſe who have attained it to an honourable diſtinction among mankind: but when ſuch executive talents are joined to a ſcientific and critical knowledge of the principles of the art, when genius is adorned with learning, when the views of the artiſt extend beyond the technical bounds of his profeſſion, and he informs as well as entertains the lovers of elegant endowments, the reputation he acquires ariſes to a degree of celebrity that places him among the ſuperior characters to which fame has awarded the palm of extraordinary abilities. We do not over-rate the merit of the ingenious author whoſe work now lies before us, when we apply to him the encomium here deſcribed. C.

Travels in Greece; or, An account of a tour made at the expence of the ſociety of Dilettanti. By Richard Chandler, D. D. Fellow of Magdalen College, and of the ſociety of antiquaries. [xxxvii. 325.] 16 s. boards. *Dodſley.*

An univerſal grammar, for the uſe of thoſe who are unacquainted with the learned languages, and are deſirous of ſpeaking or writing Engliſh, or any other modern language, with accuracy and preciſion. By the Rev. Richard Wynne, A. M. 2 s. 6 d. *Brotherton, &c.*——Nothing more than an Engliſh grammar, in which are interwoven a few remarks on ancient and modern languages. M.

The art of delivering written language; or, An eſſay on reading: in which the ſubject is treated philoſophically as well as with a view to practice. 3 s. *Dodſley.*——This writer propoſes to enter more deeply into the principles of the art, and to examine them with greater preciſion than has hitherto been done. The author's leading deſign is, to explain and ſupport an opinion, which he apprehends to be of eſſential importance, and to have been hitherto unnoticed, "That the warmth and energy of delivery in reading, ought to be inferior to that uſed in ſpeaking from preſent conception upon ſubjects in which we are immediately intereſted." M.

An eſſay towards eſtabliſhing the melody and meaſure of ſpeech to be expreſſed and perpetuated by peculiar ſymbols. 10 s. 6 d. *Almon.*——Here is ſomething new; but there is ſomething better than novelty to recommend this eſſay; as the thought is not only ingenious in itſelf, but the reducing it to practice may be alike uſeful to the ſenate, the ſtage, and the bar.—The ſimilitude between the notes here recommended, and thoſe of muſic, is acknowledged by the author himſelf; who has premiſed, that none but perſons well ſkilled in that art, both the theory and the practice of it, can be capable thoroughly, or with tolerable eaſe to themſelves, to comprehend the meaning or purpoſe of his ſcheme. But when this art is perfected, and once brought into familiar uſe, we think it may be as poſſible to convey an oration from one kingdom to another, or hand it down to poſterity, in the manner, ſtyle, and emphaſis of the ſpeaker, as a ſong with the air underwritten, which a maſter can ſing or play, at ſight, as juſtly as the compoſer; every word or ſyllable being marked with the proper meaſure and inflexion of the original expreſſion. C.

Eaſy phraſeology, for the uſe of young ladies who intend to learn the colloquial part of the Italian language. By Joſeph Baretti. 6 s. *Robinſon.*——Barring the author's vanity, which breaks out continually, not the moſt contemptible of the kind. M.

Luciani Samoſatenſis, quomodo hiſtoria conſcribenda ſit. Edidit, ac notis illuſtravit, Franciſcus Riollay, A. M. Græc. 4 s. 6 d. *Rivington.*——Conſiſts of two entertaining tracts: The method of writing Hiſtory, in which Lucian expoſes ſome Greek ſophiſts and rhetoricians; and, True Hiſtory, the title ironically applied, a whimſical romance, in ridicule of perſons who had impoſed upon the world improbable ſtories, and deſcriptions of things which never exiſted. C.

Entertainment.

The rival friends; or, The noble recluſe. 3 vols. 9 s. *Vernor.*——Though barren of incident, the principal character drawn with propriety and ſtrength, many juſt and ſenſible reflections interſperſed, a tolerable imitation of ancient romance introduced by way of epiſode, and the whole written in an agreeable ſtyle. M.

Liberal opinions, in which is continued the hiſtory of Benignus. Written by himſelf, and publiſhed by Courtney Melmoth. Vol. 3 & 4. [xxxvii 200]. 5 s. ſewed. *Robinſon.*——The editor propoſes to continue the narrative. C.

An aſylum for fugitive pieces. 1 s. *Almon.*——Intended as a continuation of the New Foundling-Hoſpital for Wit, and the Fugitive Miſcellany. The pieces here collected are not unworthy of being preſerved from oblivion. C.

Plays

Plays and Poetry.

Three weeks after marriage: a comedy of two acts, as performed at Covent-Garden theatre. 1 s. *Kearſley.* —— A republication of a piece publiſhed in 1764 under the title of, "What we muſt all come to."—To the preſent edition the ingenious author [Arthur Murphy, Eſq;] has prefixed the following advertiſement. "The following farce was offered to the public in January 1764; but the quarrel about a trifle, and the renewal of that quarrel after the diſpute had ſubſided, being thought unnatural, the piece was *damned*. Mr LEWIS of Covent-Garden theatre had the courage to revive it for his benefit in March laſt, with an alteration of the title, and it has been ſince repeated with ſucceſs. —A ſimilar incident happened to VOLTAIRE at PARIS. That writer, in the year 1734, produced a tragedy, intitled, *Adelaide du Gueſclin*, which was hiſſed through every act. In 1765, LE KAIN, an actor of eminence, revived the play, which had lain for years under condemnation. Every ſcene was applauded. "What can I think," ſays VOLTAIRE, "of theſe oppoſite judgements?" He tells the following anecdote. A banker at Paris had orders to get a new march compoſed for one of the regiments of Charles XII. He employed a man of talents for the purpoſe. The march was prepared, and a practice of it had at the banker's houſe before a numerous aſſembly. The muſic was found deteſtable. MOURET (that was the compoſer's name) retired with his performance, and ſoon after inſerted it in one of his operas. The banker and his friends went to the opera; the march was applauded. "Ah," ſays the banker, "*that's what we wanted: why did you not give us ſomething in this taſte?*" —"Sir," replied MOURET, "the march which you now applaud, is the very ſame that you condemned before." M.

The Syrens: a maſque, in two acts; as performed at Covent-Garden theatre. Written by Captain Thompſon. The muſic compoſed by Mr Fiſher. 1 s. *Kearſley.* —— A nautico-dramatical medley. M.

Don Quixote; a muſical entertainment, performed at the theatre-royal in Covent-Garden. 1 s. *Wilkie* —— In this Muſical Entertainment, the Poet hath contrived to deprive the Knight of La Mancha of his enthuſiaſm, and to rob the Squire of his pleaſantry. M.

The Man of Quality; a farce. Taken from the comedy of the Relapſe. By Mr Lee. 1 s. *Kearſley.*——In altering this farce, Mr Lee's deſign has been, to remove the blemiſhes in point of ſtyle and moral. C.

A parody on Gray's elegy. By an Oxonian. 1 s. *Wheble.*——This Parody, which has been lately adverтiſed as a new publication, was written by the Rev. Mr Duncombe, and printed for Dodſley, in 1753, under the title of, An evening-contemplation in a college [xv. 631.]. A copy of it is inſerted in the 7th volume of Fawkes's Poetical Calendar. It is a work of humour and ingenuity: but injured in this republication by ſome variations for the worſe. By a late advertiſement in one of the Evening-Papers, we are perſuaded, that neither the gentleman who poſſeſſed the manuſcript, nor the bookſeller, knew any thing of its origin, or of its having been printed before. C.

Odes by Richard Cumberland, Eſq; 1 s. *Robſon.* —— The firſt of theſe odes is addreſſed to the ſun, and is animated with a conſiderable ſhare of the lyric ſpirit. C — The ſecond, addreſſed to Dr James, appears to be a tribute of gratitude. M.

Edwald and Ellen, an heroic ballad. In two cantos. By Mr Thiſtlethwaite. 1 s 6 d. *Murray.* —— Though not entirely void of poetical merit, ſo diſfigured with a profuſion of incongruous imagery, that it hardly can afford any pleaſure to a reader of taſte. Mr Thiſtlethwaite ſeems to be particularly fond of the art of perſonification, but he uſes it with great impropriety. C.

Netherby: a poem. By Mr Maurice. 2 s. 6 d. *Kearſley.* ——We know of few deſcriptive poems that can boaſt a greater number of intereſting epiſodes than the preſent, or in which thoſe are interwoven with more beautiful and animated colouring. C.

Ugbrooke Park: a poem. 2 s. *Robſon.*—— The beauties of Ugbrooke Park are deſcribed in a lively and picturеſque ſtrain of poetry. C.

The exhibition of Fancy; a viſion. 1 s. 6 d. *Kearſley.*——Written in blank verſe, and intended to celebrate the ſucceſsful progreſs of the fine arts in Britain, in the preſent age. Did all the performances of the kind breathe an equal ſpirit with this production, we might entertain an opinion, that poetry flouriſhed among us, as well as painting and ſculpture. C.

The temple of Mammon. 1 s. *Davies.* —— Not deficient reſpecting either the juſtneſs of the allegory, or the brilliancy of deſcription. C.

The fine gentleman's etiquette; or, Lord Cheſterfield's advice to his ſon verſified. 1 s. *Davies* ——Written in hendecaſyllable meaſure, and not deſtitute of humour. C.

Poetical legends: containing, The American captive, and, The faithful feud. To which is added, The fall of Faction, a poetical viſion. 2 s. 6 d. *Donaldſon.* —— The profits to be paid into the fund for the relief of the ſick and wounded troops, &c. [162.]. The humane intention might be ſufficient to diſarm us of ſeverity though theſe poems were leſs intitled to approbation than they really are. C.

Lord

Lord C——m's propheecy; an ode; addreſſed to Lt-Gen. Gage. With explanatory and critical notes. 1 s. *Almon* —— The effuſion of a political Caſſandra with reſpect to the iſſue of the preſent war; the melancholy tenor of it now and then enlivened by tranſient glimples of humour. C.

EDINBURGH.

Commentaries upon Boerhaave's Aphoriſms concerning the knowledge and cure of diſeaſes. By Baron Van Swieten. Tranſlated from the Latin. Dedicated to Dr Cullen. In 18 volumes 12mo. Now completed [44.] 2 l. 14 s. ſewed; 3 l. 3 s. bound. *Murray, London; Elliot, Edinburgh.*

A new treatiſe on the method of breeding, breaking, and training, Horſes. By William Ward. 5 s. in boards. *Dickſon, Elliot, and Schaw.*

A dialogue between Philalethes and Benevolus: wherein Mr G. H.'s defence of tranſubſtantiation in the Appendix to his Scripture-doctrine of miracles diſplayed [43.], is fully examined, and ſolidly confuted. With ſome obſervations on his Scripture doctrine of miracles. By Dr Abernethy-Drummond. 2 s. ſewed. *Balfour, and Drummond.* —— This reply to Mr G H. is made with the liberality and modeſty of a gentleman, and with the knowledge and acuteneſs of a ſcholar. E.

Explanatory remarks on the [preceding] Dialogue: in which the ſtrength of the reaſoning made uſe of in that Dialogue is examined and unfolded, and ſome of its defects pointed out. By a lover of truth and merit. 1 s. *Elliot.*

Remarks, on the nature and extent of Liberty, as compatible with the genius of civil ſocieties; on the principles of government, and the proper limits of its powers in free ſtates; and on the juſtice and policy of the American war. Occaſioned by peruſing the Obſervations of Dr Price on theſe ſubjects. 1 s. 6 d. *Creech.* —— Of thoſe who have aſſailed Dr Price, the moſt acute, the beſt informed, and the moſt irrefragable, is, doubtleſs, the author of the preſent performance. E.

Shall I go to war with my American brethren? A diſcourſe addreſſed to all concerned in determining that important queſtion. Firſt publiſhed in 1769 [xxxi. 97.] To which are now added a preface and an appendix. By John Erſkine, D. D. one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh 3 d. *Gray.* —— "Few copies of the following diſcourſe having reached Scotland, it is now reprinted, to inform the candid, what were my apprehenſions ſeven years ago, as to the danger to which a war with her colonies might expoſe Britain, and on what facts and reaſonings my apprehenſions were founded. The date of that diſcourſe prevented my urging in it, among other appearances of the encouragement of Popery, the caſe of Governor Melvin, of Mr Mortimer, and of the Quebec act. On the one hand, the arms of our Sovereign have not gained the victories over the provincials, which I then thought probable; and, on the other, the greateſt part of all characters and denominations, through Britain, approve the meaſures of adminiſtration; which I am not able to account for, without ſuppoſing the nation judicially infatuated. — Painful as it is, and preſumptuous as it may ſeem, to arraign the opinions of wiſe and worthy friends, I ſubmit to the unwelcome taſk, that I may be free from the blood that ſhall be ſhed on either ſide, in this unnatural quarrel." *Pref.* — A correſpondent, who expreſſes the higheſt regard for Dr Erſkine, is under melancholy apprehenſions, that this diſcourſe may have an effect directly the reverſe of what the humane author intended; for that it may induce the coloniſts to reject the plan of reconciliation which is to be propoſed to them, and ſo protract the unnatural war. He ſays, that the guilt of the blood ſpilt muſt be imputed to thoſe whoſe injuſtice occaſioned the war; that government cannot be ſupported without taxes; that the coloniſts ſay expreſsly [xxxvii. 487.], that they are intitled to an option whether to pay *any* taxes or not, conſequently whether to be dependent on the mother country or not; and therefore he earneſtly requeſts the juſtly-eſteemed author to conſider, whether a deſire of independence in the coloniſts be not a more evident ſign of a judicial infatuation in them, than a deſire of continuing the ſupremacy of the mother country over them is in the people of Britain.

Common Senſe. Addreſſed to the inhabitants of America, on the following intereſting ſubjects: 1. Of the origin and deſign of government in general, with conciſe remarks on the Engliſh conſtitution; 2. Of monarchy and hereditary ſucceſſion; 3. Thoughts on the preſent ſtate of American affairs; 4. Of the preſent ability of America, with ſome miſcellaneous reflections. A new edition; with additions. To which is added an appendix, together with an addreſs to the people called Quakers. 1 s. *Philadelphia, printed; Edinburgh reprinted; Elliot, Edinburgh; and Anderſon, Stirling.*

Taylor and Skinner's Survey of the Roads of Scotland: Elegantly engraved on ſixty-one large copperplates. Containing all the public, and moſt of the by or croſs roads, in North Britain. With an index, liſt of ſtages, and a general map of Scotland. Bound in red leather. 12 s. *Gordon, Creech, Elliot, Schaw, &c.*

A view of the new bridge of Edinburgh, with the adjacent buildings of the Old and New Town. 1 s. *Schaw.*

SIR,

IN 1732 Dr Berkeley, Dean of Derry, and afterwards Biſhop of Cloyne, came over to found an Epiſcopal college upon the continent of North America, or upon ſome of the iſlands. He reſided ſome time at Newport in Rhode Iſland, where he purchaſed a country-ſeat, with about ninety-ſix acres of land: but, for ſome particular reaſons, he relinquiſhed his deſign of erecting an Epiſcopal college, and returned to England. He gave the preference to the college of New Haven or Yale, even before the Epiſcopal college of Williamſburgh in Virginia; and left his eſtate to it, ordering the income to be diſtributed in premiums to the beſt Latin and Greek ſcholars, &c &c. He alſo gave a fine collection of books of near one thouſand volumes, to the value of 400l. Sterling.*

He publiſhed in 1725 a propoſal for the better ſupplying of churches in the foreign plantations, and for converting the ſavage Americans to Chriſtianity, by a college to be erected in the Summer Iſlands, otherwiſe called the Iſles of Bermuda [xv. 53.] He obtained a charter for the purpoſe; but it was never carried into execution.

After this account of Bp Berkeley's connection with America, (which I have taken almoſt *verbatim* from the Hiſtory of Britiſh America, 4to, p. 243 & 260.), I ſhall preſent the reader with a remarkable poetical prophecy which he wrote, concerning that continent. The Biſhop was no rebel, for he preached a ſermon in favour of paſſive obedience [xxv. 699.]; his ſentiments therefore, in this light, are impartial.

VERSES by Dr BERKELEY, *Biſhop of Cloyne, on the proſpect of planting Arts and Learning in America: extracted from his Miſcellanies.*

THE Muſe, diſguſted at an age and clime,
Barren of every glorious theme,
In diſtant lands now waits a better time,
Producing ſubjects worthy Fame:

In happy climes, where from the genial ſun
And virgin earth ſuch ſcenes enſue,
The force of art by nature ſeems undone,
And fancied beauties by the true:

In happy climes, the ſeat of Innocence,
Where Nature guides and Virtue rules,
Where men ſhall not impoſe for truth and ſenſe
The pedantry of courts and ſchools.

There ſhall be ſung another golden age
The riſe of Empire and of Arts,
The good and great, inſpiring epic rage,
The wiſeſt heads and nobleſt hearts.

Not ſuch as Europe breeds in her decay;
Such as ſhe bred when freſh and young,
When heavenly flame did animate her clay,
By future poets ſhall be ſung.

Weſtward the courſe of Empire takes its way;
The four firſt acts already paſt,
A fifth ſhall cloſe the drama with the day;
Time's nobleſt offſpring is the laſt.

Perhaps the reader is a Briton; if ſo, all this might once have been his own. But, alas! our miniſters have deſtroyed the only general empire, whoſe every ſubject wiſhed its continuance and confirmation; for its foundations were laid in liberty and peace. — Reader, forgive them if you can.

JUVENIS.

* *Mr Dummer, the agent, alſo gave* 120 *volumes, and procured* 680 *more from Sir Iſaac Newton, Sir Richard Steele, Sir Richard Blackmore, Dr Burnet, Dr Woodward, Dr Halley, Dr Bentley, Dr Calamy, Dr Edwards, Mr Yale, Mr Whiſton, Mr Henry, and others.* Lond. Chron. May 21.

COLIN.

A PASTORAL, on the death, and in imitation, of Mr JOHN CUNINGHAM. [xxxvi. 605.]

By Mr HAWKINS.

Virtus nobilior auro.

GIve ear, O! ye ſwains, to my lay,
Since COLIN, alas! is no more,
Let's languiſh and pine all the day,
In ſorrow his loſs to deplore;
For he was the pride of the plain,
The garden, the grove, and the field,
But "loſt is the Paſtoral ſtrain,"
Since he no more beauties can yield.

Ye warblers, that bill on each ſpray,
Ye lambkins, that wantonly roam,
Come round, and attend to the lay—
Then "bleat and your maſter bemoan;"
For a tender good ſhepherd was he,
So true and ſo kind to his truſt,
With mildneſs he e'er painted thee,
No ſwain, ſure, was ever ſo juſt.

His manner how ſoft and ſerene,
How pleaſing his ſhape and his air.
No mortal like him e'er was ſeen,
No mortal with him cou'd compare;
For he was ſo gentle and kind,
That birds cluſter'd round in a throng,
And all in full harmony join'd,
Whenever he echo'd his ſong.

But, ah! the dear COLIN is gone!
No longer he ſings thro' the grove;
No longer beneath the gay thorn *
He pours forth his accents of love;
Then farewel! O! favourite bard!
Adieu! my dear COLIN! adieu!
Thy worth I ſhall ever regard,
To thy fame I will ever be true.

* *Mr Cuningham would frequently lie about in the fields, under a hedge or a tree; in which ſituation he wrote many of his Paſtorals.*

STANZAS

STANZAS from a ROBIN REDBREAST *to a* LADY, *February* 1776.

Diſugere nives, redeunt jam gramina campis.
HOR.

" Nature's herſelf again " ANON.

WHen Nature's lap, that erſt was green,
Was fill'd with driven ſnow;
Nor could a blade of graſs be ſeen,
Or vegetable grow:
When birds and beaſts, by ſtreſs of weather,
Were driven helter-ſkelter,
And fought promiſcuouſly together
Some ample barn for ſhelter:

To thee I dragg'd my wings along,
And pour'd forth all my grief;
Thine ear attentive heard my ſong,
Thy hand beſtow'd relief.

I rang'd, at large, thy roofs around,
Of viands had my fill;
No ſtream, in icy fetters bound,
Oppos'd my thirſty bill.

Without—the ſnow, by ſtorms ſuſtain'd,
Led on the infant year;
But thro' thy friendly rooms there reign'd
A vernal atmoſphere.

Saturnian peace near thee appear'd,
Unknown was hoſtile law;
No fav'rite ſpaniel's teeth I fear'd,
No cat's elaſtic paw.

But now the earth throws off her maſk,
And clouds portend no ſtorm;
To ſeize the fly's my eaſy taſk,
Or bolt the ſluggiſh worm.

Rough labour calls her cheriſh'd ſwains
To aid approaching ſpring;
Who, bending o'er the new-till'd plains,
Their grateful pæans ſing.

To thee, O Whitworth *, whoſe good name
Shall live in ages hence;
A pillar in the rolls of fame
Of true benevolence.

Seek then, my fair, the fir-crown'd hill,
And catch the wholeſome breeze;
I'll twine the woodbine with my bill
Among the loftier trees.

To thee, ſtretch'd on the chequer'd ſleep,
I'll tune my humble note;
And ſtop, when gently lull'd aſleep,
The gnat's ſonorous throat.

Should noxious aſps thy reſt ſurpriſe,
Veil'd in the moſſy ground,
I'll dart upon their 'witching eyes,
And warn thee ere they wound.

For tho' you boaſt, the human mind
Holds all that's great and good;
Yet oft in us poor birds you'll find
Some traits of gratitude. RUBECULA.

* *Sir C. Whitworth, chairman of the committee of charity in* London, *by whoſe laudable plan* 100,000 *ſouls were well ſupported during the laſt ſnow.*

ODE for his Majeſty's birth-day, June 4. 1776.

By William Whitehead, Eſq; Poet Laureat.

YE weſtern gales, whoſe genial breath
Unbinds the glebe, till all beneath
One verdant livery wears;
You ſooth the ſultry heats of noon,
Add ſoftneſs to the ſetting ſun,
And dry the morning's tears.

This is your ſeaſon, lovely gales,
Thro' æther now your power prevails;
And our dilated breaſts ſhall own
The joys which flow from you alone.

Why, therefore, in yon dubious ſky,
With outſpread wing, and eager eye
On diſtant ſcenes intent,
" Sits Expectation in the air," ——
Why do alternate hope and fear
Suſpend ſome great event?

Can Britain fail? — The thought were vain!
The powerful Empreſs of the main
But ſtrives to ſmooth th' unruly flood,
And dreads a conqueſt ſtain'd with blood.

While yet, ye winds, your breezy balm
Thro' Nature ſpreads a general calm;
While yet a pauſe fell Diſcord knows;
Catch the ſoft moment of repoſe,
Your genuine powers exert;
To pity melt th' obdurate mind,
Teach every boſom to be kind,
And humanize the heart!

Propitious gales, O wing your way!
And whilſt *we* hail that rightful ſway
Whence temper'd freedom ſprings,
The bliſs *we* feel to future times
Extend, and from your native climes
Bring peace upon your wings. ——

On the American Heroes.

IN Abram's plains there lie interr'd
The virt'ous and the brave:
Among the reſt none more preferr'd
Than bold Montgomery's grave.

Macpherſon's and a Cheeſeman's too,
With Hendrick's on that plain,
All bravely fought—our foes ſhall rue
That ere thoſe men were ſlain.

Ye eaſtern maids, your warriors bed
Adorn'd each morn be ſeen,
And pioufly implant a ſhade
Of gentle ever green.

And ye, ye guardian pow'rs, around,
An awful radiance ſpread!
That no unhallow'd foot be found
Within their tomb to tread.

For, from their ſhrine a flame ſhall burn,
Bold freedom to inſpire:
See how it iſſues from their urn!
Each boſom catch the fire.

Philadelphia, March 1776.

HI-

HISTORICAL AFFAIRS.

[That there might be room for the proceedings of the general assembly without interruption, other affairs are deferred.]

SCOTLAND.

On the 17th of April the magistrates and town-council of Edinburgh granted a tack, to Mr Short, Optician, of half an acre of ground on the top of the Caldton hill, on which he is to build an observatory.

The general assembly of the church of Scotland met, at Edinburgh, on *Thursday May* 23. [xxxvii. 285.]. —— After a sermon, from Col. iv. 6. by Dr David Shaw, minister at Coyltown, the former moderator, the assembly convened, and chose Dr John Ker, minister at Forfar, moderator.—Charles Lord Cathcart was the King's Commissioner; but was not present at church, or at the meeting of the court, on account of indisposition. After the moderator was chosen, a message in writing from his Grace was given in by Mr David Dalrymple, advocate, procurator for the church; which was respectfully read, and ordered to be recorded. The same gentleman gave in the commission to his Grace, the King's letter to the assembly, (both which were likewise respectfully read, and ordered to be recorded), and the warrant for 1000 l. Sterling, as his Majesty's royal bounty for this year, for encouraging itinerant ministers and catechists to be employed for reformation of the highlands and islands.—We insert the message verbatim.

"MESSAGE.

To the Right Reverend and Honourable the Moderator, Ministers, and Elders, of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

CATHCART H. COMM^R

BEING prevented from being personally present in the General Assembly this day, I have thought it right, in order that the execution of his Majesty's commands may suffer no delay, and that the Assembly may immediately be possessed of those gracious marks of his Majesty's royal favour intrusted to me to deliver, as well as the assurances of his entire approbation of their past conduct, and that no time may be lost in their making those returns which their gratitude will suggest, to send them a commission under the great seal, appointing me his High Commissioner to this General Assembly, a letter his Majesty has been graciously pleased to write to the Assembly, together with a warrant for 1000 l. being his Majesty's royal bounty for this the fiftieth [xxii. 263.] year; and when these papers shall have respectively, and with all due reverence, been read, I beg leave to recommend to the attention of the General Assembly, the remaining part of this message, containing the substance of what I should have done myself the honour to address to them from the throne, had I been personally present.

I have it expressly in command from his Majesty to take the earliest opportunity of assuring this Venerable Assembly, of the great sense his Majesty is pleased to entertain of their steady and firm zeal for his person, and of his resolution to maintain Presbyterian government in this part of the kingdom.

I am to acquaint them, that it is his Majesty's pleasure, that his royal donation for this year be applied by them to such uses as may best tend to the propagation of Christian knowledge, and of the principles of the Reformed religion in the highlands and islands of Scotland.

And I have to congratulate them upon the late increase of his Majesty's royal family, by the birth of a princess, and upon the safety of his royal consort, our most gracious Queen.

From myself I can only recommend to this Assembly an invariable perseverance in the principles of morality and of piety, of affection to his Majesty's person, and of support to that mild government under which we have enjoyed, during his Majesty's auspicious reign, so many inestimable blessings in church and state; always remembering, that unanimity is the only basis of the respect, dignity, and weight, of national assemblies, however great, and however uprightly intentioned.

I intreat this Assembly to do justice in their minds to my sincere regard for their persons as individuals, as well as my great respect for their venerable body, and of the warmth of my wishes to serve them, on any occasion with which the high trust lodged at present in my hands may furnish me.

At Edinburgh, this 23d of May 1776."

Having on former occasions given the King's letters to the assembly verbatim [viii. 225. xxiii. 270.], we shall at present

ſent content ourſelves with an extract, viz. "From the prudence and moderation of your deliberations, we have no doubt of your determination to continue your exertions with a truly Chriſtian zeal; that, conformably to the intent of your meeting, you will proceed in the diſcouragement of vice and licentiouſneſs; and that, actuated by no other motive than the deſire of promoting piety and virtue, you will avoid all contentions, and unedifying debates; that your counſels will ſolely tend to the ſuppreſſion of every ſpecies of immorality, and the increaſe of the true happineſs of our ſubjects, by enforcing a conſcientious obſervance of the religion and laws of theſe kingdoms, on which the felicity of every individual ſo eſſentially depends."

On a motion made, the Moderator, Dr Shaw, Princ. Robertſon, and Dr Macqueen, miniſters, and the Lord Advocate, and the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, ruling elders, were appointed, as a committee, to wait of the Commiſſioner, to expreſs to his Grace, in the aſſembly's name, the ſenſe they had of his Majeſty's favourable regard to the church, in the repeated aſſurances given by him of his royal protection, in countenancing the aſſemblies with his approbation and royal authority, in graciouſly continuing his royal bounty for the valuable purpoſes expreſſed in the grant, and again appointing one ſo acceptable to the aſſembly, to repreſent his royal perſon.—The committee having immediately waited on the Commiſſioner, they returned in a ſhort time, and reported, that his Grace conſidered the meſſage as a particular mark of the aſſembly's reſpect, for which he returned his thanks to the aſſembly.

Friday, May 24. On report of a committee, the following miniſters were appointed to lecture and preach in the forenoon, and to preach in the afternoon, before the Commiſſioner, viz. Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk in the forenoon, and Mr James Nairne at Pittenweem in the afternoon, of Sunday, May 26.; and Mr Thomas Robertſon at Dalmeny in the forenoon, and Mr Duncan Macmyne at Dalmellington in the afternoon, of Sunday June 2.

Saturday May 25. This day the aſſembly took into conſideration the objections made to the commiſſions of ſome members; an anſwer to the King's letter was read, approved of, ſigned by the Moderator, and directed to be properly tranſmitted; and other uſual matters were gone through.—There were debates on the commiſſions both this day and Monday.

One of the commiſſions objected to, was preſented to the preſbytery at a *pro re nata* meeting, and the preſbytery refuſed to atteſt in terms of the acts of aſſembly [xxix. 12.]. The gentleman was heard before the aſſembly, in ſupport of his commiſſion; and a member of the preſbytery roſe up to ſpeak in defence of their conduct. In the outſetting, happening to ſay, he hoped to ſatisfy the aſſembly, there were ſome things in the gentleman's character that rendered him an improper perſon to ſit in that houſe, Mr Ferguſſon of Craigdarroch called *to order*; aſking, if the gentleman objected to was at preſent under church-cenſure, or if he had been ſerved with a libel; adding, that unleſs either of theſe were the caſe, he hoped the aſſembly would never be guilty of ſo great a breach of forms, and of juſtice, as to ſuffer a gentleman's character to be traduced *brevi manu*. Some debate enſued; the reſult of which was, that no diſcuſſion of the gentleman's character could be entered upon. The preſbytery-member declared his intention to have been, to exculpate the preſbytery from any imputation of partiality.—Princ. Robertſon juſtified the preſbytery, on the principle, That a preſbytery met *pro re nata*, could take no other buſineſs under conſideration but the *res* for which they had been called together. Mr Allan Maconochy, advocate, was of opinion, that the atteſting of commiſſions was certainly an act of voluntary juriſdiction, and, like all acts of that ſort, where there were neither parties nor litigants, might be exerciſed at any place, and at any time. After ſome further reaſoning, the commiſſion was ſuſtained without a vote.

A commiſſion to Mr Allan Maconochy, advocate, from the borough of Dunfermline, was refuſed to be atteſted by the preſbytery; who alledged, that all the property Mr Maconochy had within the borough was only about twenty roods or twenty falls of land, for which he drew no more of rent than about 9 l. Scots; and, further, that he had not produced his titles to this ſmall piece of ground, ſo that there was reaſon to believe he was only a *nominal* and *fictitious* proprietor.

proprietor. Some members ſeemed deſirous of an opportunity to animadvert on the Dunfermline politics [108.] : A Rev. member was ſevere on the preſbytery, and ſaid, that the politics of Dunfermline were well known, and he was ſorry to obſerve, that ſomething of the political ſpirit had appeared in this matter. The Rev. Mr Thomſon of Dunfermline ſpoke in defence of the preſbytery, and the Rev. Mr Campbell of Renfrew on the oppoſite ſide, both with ſome warmth. The commiſſion was ſuſtained without a vote.

A third commiſſion occaſioned a good deal of debate, that from the borough of Irvine, to Mr Buſbie writer in Dumfries; which the preſbytery refuſed to atteſt, giving for the reaſon, That Mr Buſbie was an entire ſtranger to them; and that they had no evidence of his moral character, or of his being otherwiſe qualified to repreſent that borough. Dr Barclay of Haddington obſerved, that objections made to the ſame gentleman the preceding aſſembly were over-ruled, and he was found every way qualified for being a member; that therefore this aſſembly could not, conſiſtently, give a different judgement. Mr Ferguſon of Mouline anſwered, that this aſſembly were not tied down by the deciſions of any former aſſembly; that they were to judge for themſelves, according to the circumſtances of the caſe, and the evidence before them; that the objections at preſent made to Mr Buſbie might be different from thoſe made laſt year, and ſuch as ought to receive a different judgement. Meſſ. Moriſon of Paiſley, and Campbell of Renfrew, made uſe of the ſame arguments. Dr Blinſhall enlarged: He remarked. That there were two things which ſome members ſeemed to have a great veneration for, but which he could by no means think had an equal claim to their attention; meaning, the *deciſions*, and the *acts*, of aſſembly; that in judging of any queſtion, he was not bound to pay an implicit obedience to deciſions, nor ſhould they ever influence his conduct any further than they were agreeable to the great priaciples of reaſon and juſtice; that this aſſembly was not tied down to follow the deciſions of any former aſſembly, even when the caſes were preciſely the ſame, much leſs when the circumſtances were different: but with reſpect to the acts of aſſembly, theſe were ſolemn enactments, to which all its members were bound to pay a ready obedience, and he ſhould, on every occaſion, think it his duty to bow with ſubmiſſive reverence to the laws of the church.—As Mr Buſbie had not yet come up, the further conſideration of the matter was deferred.

Mr Buſbie appeared in court on Monday, and the debate was reſumed.—Princ. Robertſon took notice, that the commiſſion now before them was in the ſame predicament with one to the ſame gentleman laſt year, which the aſſembly, after mature deliberation, had been pleaſed to ſuſtain; and therefore moved, that as both caſes were exactly ſimilar, the ſame judgement ſhould be given. Mr Moriſon and Dr Blinſhall anſwered, that the laſt aſſembly might have given a wrong judgement; and if ſo, their example ſhould not be followed: they therefore inſiſted to hear parties.—Mr Buſbie then went to the bar; and ſaid, in ſupport of his commiſſion, That the preſbytery deſerved cenſure; for that though the deciſion of the preceding aſſembly might have been held by them ſufficient evidence of his moral character, he had for their further ſatisfaction produced to them an atteſtation from the borough which he was to repreſent, bearing, That he was an elder lawfully ordained, of an unblemiſhed character, circumſpect in his walk, and regular in his attendance on divine ordinances; that, though they laid no crime to his charge, they refuſed to atteſt him as an elder; that innocence was always to be preſumed till the contrary appeared; and that after a man had been once proved to be of an unblemiſhed character, he was preſumed to continue ſo.—Some members were now going to defend the preſbytery from the bar: to which Mr Moriſon of Paiſley objected. He did not ſee how the preſbytery could be conſidered as parties; no proteſt or appeal had been entered againſt their judgement; it would therefore be contrary to form, and to juſtice, to oblige them to defend a judgement which they did not know was to be brought under review, while the other party came fully prepared; he thought any member of the preſbytery might ſpeak as a judge, but the preſbytery could not be made parties.—The Lord Advocate agreed in opinion with Mr Moriſon.—A member of the preſbytery, however, ſtated their reaſons for refuſing to atteſt, importing, That Mr Buſbie was an abſolute ſtranger to them, and had produced no certificate of his character.

character. — Mr Currie, advocate, said, That Mr Busbie had a certificate of his character from the borough by which he was chosen; and if the presbytery wanted any further satisfaction on that head, it was easy for them to obtain it; adding, that it was a great hardship, and contrary to all his ideas both of law and justice, to oblige a person to produce a certificate of his character every time he was chosen a ruling elder. — Dr Blinshall, in answer, said, he hoped it would never be held to be any part of the duty of a minister, to go about like a kirk-officer, collecting certificates for such gentlemen as wished to sit in that house; an employment too mean for the lowest kirk-officer. Mr Campbell of Renfrew added, that to deny the necessity of renewing certificates, according to the doctrine of the young gentleman of the law, would be adopting the maxim, That if a person be once honest, he will be always honest; a maxim often contradicted by fact. "Many people," said he, "from Glasgow and Paisley come to the sacrament at Renfrew; and if they bring certificates of their character from their own ministers, I never refuse them tokens. But if a person who had once brought me such a certificate, should return in four years after, and ask a token, I would ask him, Where is your certificate? If he should answer, I got a token from you formerly on showing a certificate of my character, and I did not think a new certificate necessary; I would tell him, O! Friend, that will not do: you may have done a great deal of good since that time; I hope you have; but you may have done a great deal of ill too, and may have done many things that would render you a very improper communicant." He therefore justified the presbytery for refusing to attest the commission. The Lord Advocate spoke fully in support of the commission, and in vindication of Mr Busbie's character. — The assembly, without a vote, sustained the commission.

Monday, May 27. This day the Commissioner came to the Assembly. His Grace made a speech: and the Moderator, at the assembly's desire, gave the thanks of the House to his Grace, and expressed the high satisfaction they felt at seeing his Grace in his own place among them. —— As no copy of the Commissioner's speech was given out, we take what relates to it from the newspapers. "The house was very full. — A report had been propogated, that a considerable number of the clergy were for addressing the King, to recall the troops from America, and to put an end to so unnatural a war. — What follows is the substance of the Commissioner's speech: That it was with much concern and regret that he had been so long hindered, by the bad state of his health, from taking his seat among them: That he had the highest respect for such a learned and venerable body of men; and that he had, on many former occasions, met with such ample proofs of their loyalty, zeal, and affection for his Majesty's person and government, as had enabled him to assure his Majesty of their firm attachment to his person, and to the illustrious House of Hanover: That as they were already high in the estimation of their Sovereign, who had, on sundry occasions, expressed a very warm sense of their affection for him; and as the present was a time which loudly called for some extraordinary marks of their zeal and attachment; he did not doubt, that, on this occasion, they would recommend themselves to his Royal favour, by the strongest expressions of their loyalty and affection: That he hoped the sentiments which he felt in his own breast, were the same with those which they felt on this occasion, and which, he flattered himself, would now influence their conduct: That such was the present alarming situation of public affairs in America, that he hoped to be forgiven by them for directing their attention to a matter of such public concern: He would not, however, enter into a detail of the causes of the present troubles on that continent: That it was not now time for discussions of that sort; the affair of the moment was the business of the moment: That it was sufficient to observe, that many of the provinces had already revolted from the parent-state, and were now in actual rebellion against the mother-country: That they had already shaken off their allegiance to their Sovereign, and denied the supremacy of the British legislature: That they were now no longer acting on the defensive; their aim seemed to be, to shake themselves loose from the parent-state, and to establish an independent empire: That, with this view, they had already attacked his Majesty's fortresses; and had invaded and taken possession of the large province of Canada, Quebec, he hoped, excepted: That, in such circumstances, the

the total reduction of America was become abſolutely neceſſary: That this would, no doubt, require a great expence of blood and treaſure; but he hoped, that the meaſures which were taken, and the fleets and armies which were provided, by government, for that purpoſe, if, by the bleſſing of Providence, they ſhould arrive at their ſeveral deſtinations, would, in all human probability, inſure ſucceſs: That his Majeſty had intruſted the conduct of the war to Generals of conſumate military knowledge, of tried courage, and of approved fidelity; men whoſe wiſdom, valour, and prudence, were equally known to the friends and enemies of government in both countries: But ſuch was the clemency and humanity of our Sovereign, that, ever careful of the lives and anxious for the happineſs of his people, he was ſtill ready to give pardon to thoſe who ſhould return to their duty and allegiance, and acknowledge the juſt authority of the mother-country: That, to this end, he had been graciouſly pleaſed to place the olive-branch in the ſame hands which were armed with the thunder of the war: That however gloomy the preſent proſpect of affairs might be, he ſtill hoped, that, by means of theſe men, ſo eminent for their valour, prudence, and wiſdom, peace, order, and tranquillity, would, in a ſhort time, be reſtored to every part of the Britiſh empire: That he thought it his duty to mention theſe things, for the information of thoſe who might not have the ſame opportunities of knowing them with himſelf: and concluded with recommending to them, to draw up a loyal and dutiful addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs."

But in a ſubſequent paper a caveat appeared, viz.—"By Authority. The public are hereby appriſed, that no copy of the Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly on Monday the 27th of May, having been communicated to any one, nor any copy taken by a ſhort-hand writer, the repreſentations of it given in the News-papers and Weekly Magazines, though with the beſt intentions in the publiſhers, muſt, of courſe, be erroneous; and that they happen to differ totally, in very eſſential particulars, from what was then delivered from the throne."

After the Commiſſioner had delivered his ſpeech, and the Moderator had made a return to it, Princ. Robertſon moved, That the aſſembly ſhould addreſs his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs, and name a committee to draw up the addreſs, and bring it in next day. The motion was unanimouſly agreed to, and the following members were appointed as a committee to draw up the addreſs, viz. the Moderator, Principal Robertſon, Mr John Hamilton, Dr Daniel Macqueen, Dr David Shaw, Profeſſor Baillie, and Dr Blinthall, miniſters, and the Lord Advocate, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and Mr Solicitor Murray, ruling-elders.

Tueſday, May 28. The draught of the addreſs having been produced, was firſt read all over, and then paragraph by paragraph. Princ. Robertſon obſerved, that it breathed a ſpirit of mildneſs becoming the church of Scotland, and at the ſame time ſhewed their loyalty to his Majeſty. The addreſs was unanimouſly approved of by the aſſembly, and ſubſcribed by the Moderator in their preſence. At the aſſembly's requeſt, the Commiſſioner was pleaſed to undertake to tranſmit it.

Immediately after this addreſs had been approved of in the aſſembly, a motion was made by the Lord Advocate, that an addreſs of congratulation ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty on the birth of a princeſs [221.]. This motion was likewiſe unanimouſly agreed to, and a committee was appointed to draw it up. —It was preſented next day, unanimouſly approved of, and ſigned by the Moderator.

The Commiſſioner having accordingly tranſmitted to the Earl of Suffolk, one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, the addreſs on the preſent ſituation of affairs, it was by his Lordſhip preſented to his Majeſty, and received very graciouſly.—It has ſince appeared in the London Gazette, and is as follows.

"May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

We your Majeſty's moſt dutiful ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders met in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, animated with the ſame ſentiments of loyalty which prevail among the people under our care, embrace this firſt opportunity of joining with them in declaring, that, at this intereſting juncture, our attachment to your Majeſty's perſon and government, and our zeal for the conſtitution and rights of Great Britain, continue firm and unſhaken.

Under a conſtitution founded on the principles of liberty, and governed by a ſovereign

sovereign whose reign has been uniformly distinguished by a sacred regard for the rights of his people, we have enjoyed a felicity, which our forefathers struggled and prayed for, but did not obtain: and we daily bless that God, by whom kings reign, for your mild and equitable administration. Sensible of our own happiness, and reposing with confidence on your Majesty's attention to the welfare of all your people, it is with no less astonishment than regret, that we have beheld those alarming events which disturb the tranquillity of your reign.

But while we deeply bewail the progress of that spirit, which hath prompted our fellow-subjects in North America to take arms, in opposition to your Majesty's authority, and the supremacy of the British legislature, we contemplate, with peculiar satisfaction, that striking proof which your Majesty now gives of your paternal affection, by vesting in the same respectable persons whom you have intrusted with the command of your formidable fleets and armies, the power of displaying the extent of your Majesty's clemency, and of conciliating the alienated minds of your subjects.

We consider ourselves as called upon in the present situation of public affairs, to exert our utmost diligence in discharging the important functions of our sacred office, in order to confirm the people committed to our charge in their reverence for the laws of their country, in their attachment to the system of legal government established by the glorious revolution, and in their loyalty towards your Majesty, whom they have experienced to be the faithful guardian of those liberties which your illustrious house was called to maintain.

These endeavours shall ever be accompanied with our fervent prayers to Almighty God, that he may go forth with the fleets and armies of our country; that he may bless the humane means employed by your Majesty to recall our fellow-subjects to a sense of their duty, and to put a speedy period, without effusion of blood, to the present dangerous and unnatural rebellion; that He, who stilleth the tumults of the people, and ruleth the spirit of man, may, in his good time, turn the hearts of the children unto their fathers; that out of confusion order may arise; that, in place of anarchy and civil discord, submission to legal authority may return; and the union between Great Britain and her colonies may be happily re-established, so that both may long rejoice under the government of your Majesty, as their common parent and benefactor.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this national Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, by

JOHN KER, Moderator.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1776."

The congratulatory address on the birth of a princess was transmitted, presented, and graciously received, in the same manner as the other, and appeared in the same gazette.

The report of the committee appointed by the preceding assembly to consider the psalmody [xxxvii. 285.], was given in and read, viz. "The committee — report, That, in discharge of the trust committed to them, they held sundry meetings, and did, both by letters and public advertisements, invite the assistance of all who wished the improvement of our present psalmody: That in consequence of this, they received sundry pieces of sacred poetry, which may be of use; and hope, that if this assembly shall be pleased to continue the committee, and to impower them to make a collection from poems already published, as well as from manuscripts already received, or which may be hereafter sent to them, they may be able, against the next assembly, to produce such a collection as shall deserve the approbation of that Venerable court." — The assembly continued the committee, and appointed Mr James Brown, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, convener.

On a petition for Mr Abraham Ker, minister at Nenthorn, and a letter from the heritors agreeing thereto, the assembly disjoined the parish of Nenthorn from the presbytery of Lauder, and annexed it to the presbytery of Kelso; declaring Mr Ker, and his successors in office, constituent members of the presbytery of Kelso in time coming.

The report of the committee for overtures was given in, and read.—As to the overture concerning the age of ruling elders [xxxvii. 283.], the assembly, finding, that a considerable majority of

preſbyteries had now agreed to it, did, after a ſhort debate, agree, without a vote, to turn it into an act, and enacted accordingly.

As to the overture concerning perſons going to be licenſed or ordained without the bounds of the church [xxxvii. 283.], the aſſembly having conſidered the ſtate of returns from preſbyteries upon it, retranſmitted it, requiring preſbyteries to ſend up their opinion thereupon to next aſſembly: And the aſſembly, conſidering this overture as of ſpecial importance, and finding, that the greateſt part of the number of preſbyteries had paid no regard to two former tranſmiſſions, they renewed the appointment of the preceding aſſembly upon the ſeveral ſynods, that at each of their meetings before the next aſſembly, they ſhall inquire at the preſbyteries within their bounds, whether or not they have conſidered this overture; and if any of them have not, that the ſynods ſhall injoin theſe to meet before the aſſembly, and comply with this appointment; and the aſſembly further appointed letters to be ſent by their clerk to the moderators of all ſuch preſbyteries, requiring each of them, at the firſt meeting of his preſbytery after ſuch letter ſhall come to his hand, to intimate to them the aſſembly's injunction to take this overture into conſideration, and to return their opinion upon it to the next aſſembly, and that theſe moderators report to the next aſſembly concerning their obedience to this appointment.

Wedneſday, May 29. Upon a motion, the aſſembly appointed the clerks to cauſe print copies of the act reſpecting the age of ruling elders, and tranſmit a copy of it to every miniſter in Scotland, that he may cauſe inſert it in the kirk-ſeſſion records.

An overture from the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, reſpecting ſtudents of divinity, and the licenſing of probationers, was read; and a committee, viz. Mr Colin Campbell, and Drs Blinſhall and Macqueen, miniſters, and Mr Alexander Belſches, advocate, ruling elder, was appointed, to look over the acts of aſſembly reſpecting this matter, in order to know what the aſſembly have already done, and to report.—An overture from the ſynod of Roſs, relating to the incloſing of glebes, was likewiſe referred to this committee.

On an overture from the ſynod of Fife, the aſſembly unanimouſly changed the day of meeting of that ſynod from the firſt to the ſecond Wedneſday in October.

After reading a petition for Mr Robert Dalrymple, late miniſter at Dallas, and an extract from the minutes of the ſynod of Moray, the aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to take off the ſentence of depoſition paſſed upon that gentleman [xxv. 355.], and to repone him to the office of a miniſter of the goſpel.—The petition ſet forth, That the petitioner acknowledged the juſtice of the ſentence, but found himſelf very unhappy under it, and was extremely deſirous to be reſtored to his miniſterial character. The ſynod having unexceptionable evidence of the petitioner's decent and uſeful behaviour ever ſince he was depoſed, not only from the teſtimony of their own members, but alſo from the other places where he reſided, were of opinion unanimouſly, that it would be in no reſpect hurtful to the intereſts of religion, but otherwiſe, to agree to his petition.

Overtures reſpecting the widows fund, from the ſynods of Aberdeen and Angus, and from Dr Blinſhall, were read; and Dr Webſter, being in the Houſe, was heard on the ſubject; then the aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to reject thoſe overtures.—Theſe overtures propoſed, that ſome proviſion ſhould be made for the children of contributors who are ſixteen years of age or upwards on the death or marriage of their father's widow.

Thurſday, May 30. A petition for the donors of the meeting-houſe at Dunfermline formerly Mr Gilleſpie's [xxxvii. 285.], and an extract of the proceedings of the preſbytery relative to that affair, were read.—The donors had applied to the preſbytery of Dunfermline, May 8. 1776, in purſuance of the ſentence of the aſſembly 1775 [xxxvii. 285.], to reſume the conſideration of their caſe, and to grant the prayer of their original application for a chapel of eaſe. After reaſoning, it was propoſed by ſome members, "That as the aſſembly had remitted to them, to ſettle what was dubious, and every circumſtance requiſite to be known, in order to determine the propriety of granting or rejecting this petition for a chapel of eaſe; and as the petitioners had never brought this affair before them till this meeting, ſo long after the aſſembly had given that judgement upon it, and after the day had been far ſpent, the preſbytery

bytery should delay the further consideration of this matter till their next ordinary meeting; and in the mean time recommend to the petitioners to lay before them that day proper evidence and information, as to the numbers of those that adhere to their petition, the sufficiency or insufficiency of the present kirk of Dunfermline properly to accommodate them all, the security for the decent maintenance of a minister or preacher to them, and other circumstances requisite to be known, as the remit from the last assembly bears." Another proposal was made, "That the presbytery should refer the cause as it now stands to the general assembly, without making any further inquiries into the particulars before mentioned." A vote having been thereupon put, Delay, or Refer? it carried Delay, eleven to four. So the cause was delayed till the next presbytery-meeting on the last Wedneday of June; and it was recommended to the petitioners to do as is expressed in the first proposal. The petitioners appealed to the assembly.

The Reasons of appeal for the donors, (signed *Da. Turnbull, John Tannochie, John Gilmore, Alex. Stirling*), and the Answers for the presbytery, (signed *Ja. Thomson, Tho. Fernie*, the ministers of Dunfermline), were given in to court. — We give the substance of these; by which this cause, which has been now before three assemblies, and is still undetermined, will be better known than formerly.

Appeal. The donors humbly complain of the ungenerous treatment they experience. Now that they have obviated all colourable objections to their demand of obtaining communion with the church of Scotland, they find their wishes defeated as effectually, if not more so, by a delay, as they could have been by a refusal. It may be perhaps urged against them, that they postponed unnecessarily presenting their petition. But former events prevented their entertaining very sanguine hopes of succeeding: they delayed, therefore, in the view, that if they met with injustice, they might at once go to the supreme court.

Answers. We are afraid the donors are not sincere in the reason they give for the delay. For they only got quit of their minister a very short time ago; and whom they dismissed long before the time of their agreement was expired, as not being able to maintain him. We know also, that since he was gone, they have applied to some of the hearers to sign an application to the presbytery, which they refused to do; telling Provost Turnbull, who applied to them, That they would not sign, for the Provost knew they were not able to maintain a minister. This one of them told Mr Thomson himself; and added, that the Provost said he believed it was true. It is known too, that others to whom they applied, refused; which is the reason they omit *the people* being concerned in this application.—We think it not fair in these four persons to call themselves a committee appointed by a majority of the donors. For the donors were not all cited to meet about the first application. Only a few, mostly on one side of the question, who agreed, at the burial of Mr Gillespie, to meet, resolved to keep up the house as a chapel of ease, and to apply to the presbytery for that effect; and appointed a committee of many, or any three of them, to be the committee, in which number were the persons above named. After the assembly 1774, a formal meeting of the donors was held, July 12. 1774, in pursuance of an intimation from their pulpit June 19. in which a great majority of the donors, in number fifty-six, voted the former resolutions void; and all that stayed, unanimously voted to apply to the presbytery of Relief, and not to the church of Scotland; and they have accordingly built a meeting-house, to which the most of those who were Mr Gillespie's hearers resort; and the former meeting-house is shut up. It is great assurance for these four, to call themselves a committee of the majority of the donors: even their party never met to authorise them; so that there is no petition from the donors at all, either last year or this. Last year they did not pretend it came from the donors, but from the people, and these taken up here and there, without any meeting for that purpose, without any evidence the subscriptions were genuine, or the subscribers of sufficient age to sign. They dare not say, that since last assembly they have called a meeting, either of the donors, in whose name they apply, or of the Christian people, or asked their advice; for they know they have no numbers to make the face of a congregation, or to maintain a minister. So there is no petition from a people

wanting to have communion with the church of Scotland, but a petition of a very few, four donors, that they may diſappoint other donors, who adhere to the Relief, and are ſeeking a ſhare of the value of the houſe, which they cannot now keep up as a place of religious worſhip: for it appears from a paper laid before the preſbytery when they firſt applied, that in the diſpoſition of the meeting-houſe it is provided, that upon the death or removal of Mr Gilleſpie, it ſhall be in the power of any of the donors to demand, that the houſe be brought to a ſale, and the price divided in proportion to the ſums ſubſcribed; but if kept up as a houſe of worſhip, that they who make the demand ſhall have the half of their ſums in full of their claims.

Reaſon 1. The delay is unneceſſary; becauſe no reaſon that will bear the light can be offered for it.

Anſwer. We delayed, — 1. till we ſhould know, if the donors were called together to authoriſe theſe four men to make this application, and if they had any authority from the people; — 2. till we ſhould be ſure if the mother-church would hold them, as their number did not exceed thirty in the pariſh; — 3. to ſee if they could ſecure a fund to maintain a miniſter, they having ſet off the one they had, who complained from the pulpit that he was ſtarving for want of proper ſubſiſtence; — 4. till we brought them properly to acknowledge the authority of the kirk-ſeſſion of Dunfermline, and agree to have no ſeparate kirk-ſeſſion; — 5. & 6. till we fixed theſe two points, That they were to have no elders diſtinct from the kirk-ſeſſion of Dunfermline, who are the only collectors and diſtributers of the contributions for the poor; and, How far their miniſter, when ordained, or admitted, was to be ſubject to the miniſters and kirk-ſeſſion of Dunfermline; — and ſeveral other things neceſſary to be fixed.

Reaſ. 2. The delay is vexatious; becauſe, notwithſtanding the long and well-meant endeavours of the donors, they are excluded by it from communion with the eſtabliſhed church, unleſs they ſubmit to hear at leaſt part of the public ſervice diſcharged by a perſon whoſe pulpit-performances have met with a ſevere cenſure from the higheſt civil court in this country [xxxvii. 694.]; and the topics of many of whoſe diſcourſes the donors are humbly of opinion would not be edifying, either to themſelves, their wives, or their daughters.

Anſ. This is ſcurrilous. It betrays a conſciouſneſs of the weakneſs of a man's cauſe when he has recourſe to lies and calumnies to ſupport it: and theſe men dare not ſhow the copies of any of theſe diſcourſes, and ſubſcribe them, for fear of condign puniſhment for vending counterfeits. The calling the delay vexatious, becauſe by it they are excluded from communion with the eſtabliſhed church, is the height of impudence: for it is not true of theſe four perſons (the only donors before us) that it gives them the ſmalleſt pain to be excluded communion with the eſtabliſhment: D. Turnbull, J. Tannochie, (who is not in our pariſh, but in that of Carnock), and A. Stirling, attend Seceding meetings, and J. Gilmore is of Independent principles, ſo far as he underſtands them. If the miniſter pointed at, has been condemned by one interlocutor, he has been juſtified by another [xxxvii. 110.]; and the cauſe is ſtill in dependence [108.]. What they ſay of his diſcourſes, favours not only of pride and contempt, but of ſpite and falſehood; and the other miniſter hereto ſubſcribing, avers, that his diſcourſes are ſcriptural, practical, and very acceptable to the hearers.

The papers were read and parties were heard in the aſſembly; and after long reaſoning, a motion was made "to diſmiſs the complaint; but, on account of the preſent diſpoſition of the people, petitioners, remit the cauſe to the preſbytery, with inſtructions, to uſe their beſt endeavours to accommodate the petitioners, if they ſhall again apply to them, ſo as to prevent their joining any body of ſectaries." Afterwards another motion was made, "That the aſſembly ſhould appoint a committee of this Houſe, to draw up ſpecial inſtructions to the preſbytery of Dunfermline, to be reported to an after meeting." The queſtion was then put, "Appoint a committee, (in terms of the laſt motion); or, Remit, (in terms of the former motion)?" and it carried, Remit, 90 to 77. The aſſembly therefore diſmiſſed the complaint, and remitted the cauſe to the preſbytery.

Friday, May 31. The report of the committee appointed, on Wedneſday, to conſider of an overture relating to the incloſing of miniſters glebes, was read; and

and the aſſembly appointed the Procurator, and thirty-five other ruling elders, among whom are the Lords Preſident, Chief Baron, and Advocate, Alva and Ankerville, and many lawyers and writers to the ſignet, (the Procurator to be convener), as a committee, to conſider this affair, and ripen it for the next aſſembly.

A repreſentation of the truſtees of the widows fund, reſpecting certain alterations propoſed to be made in the ſcheme of that fund, which had been tranſmitted to preſbyteries and univerſities by the preceding aſſembly, and alſo the returns made in conſequence of that tranſmiſſion, were taken into conſideration. Certain articles were approved of, and certain articles were appointed to be tranſmitted to preſbyteries and univerſities; and a letter was appointed to be wrote to the moderator of each preſbytery, and to the principal of each univerſity, by the clerk of aſſembly, requiring them to report the opinion of contributors on thoſe articles on or before the ſecond Tueſday of October next, diſtinguiſhing the number of contributors approving and diſapproving of each article. The truſtees are to lay theſe reports before the commiſſion in November; and the commiſſion is to apply to parliament, for a new ſtatute for ſuch variations to be made upon the preſent ſtatutes as were agreed to by the laſt aſſembly in conſequence of the approbation of contributors, and ſuch other alterations reſpecting the articles now tranſmitted, as ſhall appear reaſonable, and moſt agreeable to the ſenſe of contributors. In caſe there ſhall be no meeting of commiſſion in November, the powers veſted in them are veſted in the truſtees; and the better to ſecure returns within the time limited, it is recommended to the truſtees to write a letter to each contributor, informing him of this reſolution.

On report of a committee appointed on Thurſday to conſider of a petition of Mr Patrick Caldwell miniſter at Norryſtown, the aſſembly unanimouſly authoriſed the preſbytery of Dumblane to pay to Mr Caldwell 20l. Sterling out of the funds of Norryſtown under their adminiſtration [xxxv. 272.], to be applied by him in repairing the offices belonging to the manſe of Norryſtown, and the dikes and hedges ſurrounding the garden and orchard; and further, ordained, that Mr Caldwell, and his ſucceſſors in office, ſhall be intitled to poſſeſs the five acres and a half of ground as a glebe (for which he preſently pays L. 8 : 2 : 6 Sterling yearly) free of rent in all time coming.

In the committee for overtures, this day, a motion was made, to bring in an overture for changing the puniſhment of thoſe found guilty of fornication and adultery from ſtanding on what is called the *ſtool of repentance*, into a pecuniary fine. The motion was warmly ſupported, and as warmly oppoſed. After a long debate, the gentleman who made the motion agreed to withdraw it; ſo that the affair was dropped for the preſent.

Saturday, June 1. The report of a committee appointed to conſider the ſtate of Popery in the highlands and iſlands of Scotland [xxxvi. 276.], being called for, a member of the committee informed the Houſe, that they had no report ready, but craved to be continued. The aſſembly continued the committee, with the powers formerly given to them.

It being repreſented, that many preſbyteries had neglected to make the collection for the ſupport of the charity-ſchools [xxxvi. 276.], the aſſembly recommended it to the ſociety for propagating Chriſtian knowledge, to ſend a new copy of the act of aſſembly appointing this collection to be made, together with a liſt of thoſe that are deficient in making the collection, to the moderator of each of theſe preſbyteries; and the aſſembly renewed the appointment upon ſuch deficient preſbyteries to make the collection between and next aſſembly.

The report of a committee appointed to conſider an overture reſpecting ſtudents of divinity, and the licenſing of probationers [274], was given in, read, conſidered, and agreed to, ſo far as to tranſmit the overture of the aſſembly 1749 *ſimpliciter*; ſtrictly enjoining preſbyteries to attend to a matter of ſuch importance, and to ſend up their opinions thereupon to the next aſſembly.

Two petitions and complaints by Meſſ. John Spence of Orwell and Alexander Daling of Cleiſh were read.—In the privy cenſures, in Dunfermline preſbytery, April 5. 1775, Mr George Adie moved, "That whereas there was, and is, a *fama clamoſa* of a diſturbance in the church of Dunfermline, in time of public worſhip, upon one or other of the Sabbaths

Sabbaths of October or November last [xxxvi. 620.], the presbytery should make inquiry into the same." Mr Daling seconded this motion; and added, That in regard the affair relating to Mr Thomson and Robert Scotland had made a great noise in the country, and accounts of it had been published in the news-papers unfavourable to Mr Thomson, which have not been publicly contradicted, he therefore moved, That the presbytery should take that affair under consideration, and hear Mr Thomson thereon. Mr John Spence adhered to these motions. After long reasoning, a vote was stated: "Receive the motion; or, Reject the same, in regard the brethren who made it had never conversed with Mr Thomson in private on that subject." It carried, Reject. Mr Daling protested, That it should be competent to him to renew the motion after conversing in private with Mr Thomson. Mr Spence adhered. Then the moderator intimated to Mr Thomson, That they found nothing censurable this day in his conduct, and encouraged him to go on in the work of the Lord.

Mr Daling informed the presbytery, Sept. 27. 1775, That he had conversed privately with Mr Thomson; and, notwithstanding, he still thought it incumbent on him to insist, that the presbytery should take the affair under consideration: but as Mr Thomson was not then present, and as the affair was before the court of session, he did not insist on its being then proceeded in. So it was delayed.

Mr Daling renewed his motion, May 8. 1776, in a writing, under form of instrument; importing, That as the presbytery had declined a diet for privy censures that day, the affair relating to Mr Thomson and Robert Scotland be resumed, and that the presbytery resolve to take cognisance of it: That this was the more necessary, because not only was there an account of the sermon published in news-papers and magazines, which had given great and general offence, but it was evident from a reclaiming petition given in to the court of session for Mr Thomson, that a sentence was pronounced against him by the Lords [xxxvii. 694.], (which he recited): he therefore moved, That for the exoneration of the presbytery, and that Mr Thomson might have an opportunity of vindicating himself, they should declare their resolution to enter upon this affair with all convenient speed, they having incurred a deal of reproach for delaying it so long; and, in the mean time, as the case was new and singular, and the general assembly so near, that the presbytery refer it to them for their advice and direction. The presbytery, considering, that there had been no meeting for prayer and privy censures before the last synod in April, resolved to have a diet for that purpose on the day of the ordinary meeting of presbytery immediately before the meeting of the synod, in October next, when the affairs in dependence before meetings for privy censures, and in particular that referred to in the motion made by Mr Daling, should be taken into consideration.—From this resolution Mr Daling entered an appeal to the assembly. Mr Spence took a protest in the hands of a notary, for liberty to complain of this resolution.

In the assembly the complainers, and two members of the presbytery, were heard; the papers were read; parties were heard at the bar; and, after deliberating, the complaints were dismissed.

Monday, June 3. The assembly continued the committees on the window-tax, and on the Enzie fund, with the same powers as appointed by former assemblies.

On a petition from the synod of Galloway, the assembly unanimously changed the place of that synod's meeting, from Wigton to Newton-Stewart; allowing the synod to adjourn occasionally to Kirkcudbright, Wigton, Stranraer, or elsewhere.

On a motion, the assembly agreed to augment the salary of the beadles [xxxvii. 285.] to forty shillings Sterling each.

The assembly referred all causes brought before this assembly, and not discussed by them, to their commission, with power to them to judge and determine finally therein; and appointed a committee to pitch upon such acts of this assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The business of the assembly being over, the Moderator made a speech; then turning to the Commissioner, he addressed his Grace in the assembly's name. In return to which his Grace made a speech.

The next assembly is appointed to be held in the same place upon Thursday the 22d day of May 1777.

MAR-

MARRIAGES.

May 3. At London, Lord Viſcount Stormont, to Miſs Cathcart, third daughter of Lord Cathcart.

8. At Cheſter, George Harding, aged 104, to Jane Darlington, aged 84.

19. At London, Lord Viſcount Beauchamp, eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Hertford, to Lady Iſabella Ann Ingram Shepheard, daughter of Lord Viſcount Irwin.

20. At London, Sir George Howard, K. B. and member of parliament for Stamford, to Lady-dowager Effingham.

20. At Carron-Hall, James Bruce of Kinnaird, Eſq; [154] to Miſs Mary Dundas, eldeſt daughter of Thomas Dundas of Fingaſk, Eſq;

20. At Edinburgh, John Gilleſpie, Eſq; younger of Kirktown, to Miſs Scrymgeour, ſiſter to Alexander Scrymgeour, Eſq; of Birkhill, Advocate.

BIRTHS.

May 7. The Lady of the Rt Hon. Philip Yorke, of a ſon.

24. At Edinburgh, Mrs Davidſon of Ravelrig, of a ſon.

25. At Edinburgh, Mrs Bruce of Arnot, of a ſon.

"*St James's*, *May* 11. Laſt Sunday evening the ceremony of chriſtening the young princeſs [221.] was performed in the great council-chamber, by the Archbiſhop of Canterbury. Her Royal Highneſs was named MARY. The ſponſors were, Prince Frederick of Heſſe-Caſſel, repreſented by the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain of his Majeſty's Houſehold; the Ducheſs of Saxe-Gotha, repreſented by the Ducheſs of Argyle; and the Princeſs Fredericka of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, repreſented by the Dowager Counteſs of Effingham." *Lond. gaz.*

DEATHS.

Oct. 27. 1775. On the coaſt of Guinea, Mr Andrew Bruce, third ſon of the deceaſed Captain James Bruce, late of the 26th regiment of foot.

"*Peterſburg*, *April* 26. *N. S.* This afternoon died, after a few days illneſs, her Imperial Highneſs the Great Ducheſs of Ruſſia." *Lond. gaz.*

April 29. At Padua, Mr Wortley Montague (brother to Lady Bute). He was a moſt ſingular man, and his death was as remarkable as his life. The cauſe of it was, his accidentally ſwallowing the breaſt-bone of a ſmall bird, called a *Paccaſight*. He threw it up ſome months ago, and flattered himſelf that he ſhould ſoon be well, and intended going to England in May; but the bone had made ſuch a deep wound in his throat, that it could not be healed. [xxx. 41.]

In Jamaica, immenſely rich, George Goodding, Eſq; who made his own coffin, which continually hung over his bed, with a ſhroud, and every other burial-article in it, till his exit in the 105th year of his age.

May 1. At Craigniſh caſtle, Argyleſhire, James Campbell of Craigniſh, Eſq;

4. At London, Sir John Barrington, Bt, late member for Newton, in the Iſle of Wight.

4. At Chatham, Thomas Fletcher, Eſq; deputy-lieutenant, and one of the juſtices of that county. This gentleman died worth upwards of 70,000 l. the whole of which, it is ſaid, he hath bequeathed to his brother John Fletcher, Eſq; of Rocheſter, whoſe fortune was almoſt as great as his brother's.

7. At Aberdeen, Mr William Aberdeen, merchant in that city.

10 At Drigg, in Cumberland, Eleanor Thompſon, aged 102.

13 At Luſs, Mr William Grant, miniſter of that pariſh.

15. At Faitholm, near Hamilton, Major Charles Hamilton of Faitholm.

15. At Keir manſe, Mr Alexander Bayne of New Grange, in the 84th year of his age, and 56th of his miniſtry.

15. At Edinburgh, Dr James Dalrymple of Dunragget

At Clifton, near York, Robert Cook, aged 107.

22. At Clapham, aged 101. Mr Pemberton, formerly an orange-merchant in London.

25. At his ſeat at Mount Merrion, in Ireland, Richard Lord Viſcount Fitzwilliam, K. B. a privy counſellor of that kingdom, and F. R. S.

25. At Edinburgh, Mr Charles Butter, merchant in that city.

26. At Glaſgow, in the 18th year of his age, Andrew Buchanan, only ſon of James Buchanan of Drumpellier, Eſq;

27. At Blackheath, Sarah Viſcounteſs Falkland, wife of Lucius Charles Lord Falkland. Her Ladyſhip was firſt married to Henry late Earl of Suffolk.

PREFERMENTS.

From the London Gazette.

The King has been pleaſed,

May 3. to order letters-patent to be paſſed under the great ſeal of Great Britain, conſtituting and appointing Richard Lord Viſcount Howe, of the kingdom of Ireland, and the Hon. William Howe, Eſq; Major-General of his Majeſty's forces, and General of his Majeſty's forces in North America only, to be his Majeſty's Commiſſioners for reſtoring Peace to his Majeſty's Colonies and Plantations in North America; and for granting pardon to ſuch of his Majeſty's ſubjects there now in rebellion, as ſhall deſerve the Royal Mercy.

—to nominate and appoint Henry Strachy, Eſq;

Eſq; to be Secretary to the ſaid Commiſſion.

7. to order letters-patent to be paſſed under the great ſeal of Ireland, for granting to Major Thomas Pigott the office of Chief Engineer of all the Garriſons and Forts in that kingdom.

11. to appoint Sir John Dalrymple, Bt, to be one of the Barons of the court of Exchequer in Scotland, in the room of William Mure, Eſq; deceaſed.

14. to order a writ to be iſſued under the great ſeal of G. Britain, for ſummoning Francis Oſborne, Eſq; commonly called Marquis of Carmarthen, up to the Houſe of Peers, by the title of *Baron Oſborne* of Kiveton in the county of York.

—to grant unto the Ducheſs of Argyle the dignity of a Baroneſs of the kingdom of Great Britain, by the title of *Baroneſs Hamilton*, of Hameldon in the county of Leiceſter; and the dignity of a Baron to her heirs-male.

—to grant the dignity of a Baron of the kingdom of Great Britain unto the following Gentlemen, and their heirs-male, viz.

Alexander Hume Campbell, Eſq; commonly called Lord Polwarth, [eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Marchmont], by the title of *Baron Hume* of Berwick.

John Stuart, Eſq; commonly called Lord Mount Stuart, [eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Bute], by the title of *Baron Cardiff* of Cardiff-caſtle in the county of Glamorgan. [xxiii. 223.]

The Rt Hon. Sir Edward Hawke, K. B. by the title of *Baron Hawke* of Towton in the county of York.

The Rt Hon. George Onſlow, by the title of *Baron Cranley* of Imber Court in the county of Surry.

The Rt Hon. Sir Jeffery Amherſt, K. B. by the title of *Baron Amherſt* of Holmeſdale in the county of Kent.

Sir Brownlow Cuſt, Bt, by the title of *Baron Brownlow* of Belton in the county of Lincoln.

George Pitt, Eſq; by the title of *Baron Rivers* of Strathfieldſay in the county of Southampton.

Nathaniel Ryder, Eſq; by the title of *Baron Harrowby* of Harrowby, in the county of Lincoln.

Thomas Foley, Eſq; of Great Witley in the county of Worceſter, by the title of *Baron Foley* of Kidderminſter in the county of Worceſter.

14. to grant unto Jacob Reynardſon, Eſq; the office of one of the Clerks of his Majeſty's Privy Seal, in the room of William Fleming, Eſq; deceaſed.

War-office, May 7. 1776.

3d reg. of dragoon guards: Capt.-Lieut. Francis Boughton is appointed to be Captain, vice William Richard Wilſon.

Ditto: Lieut. Edward Milbanke to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Francis Boughton.

Ditto: Corn. Thomas Tiddeman to be Lieutenant, vice Edward Milbanke.

1ſt reg. of dragoons: Corn. Sir John Henry Moore, Bart. to be Lieutenant, vice John Grier.

Ditto: Joſeph Haydock Boardman, Gent. to be Cornet, vice Sir John Henry Moore, Bt.

2d reg. of dragoons: Corn. William Gray to be Lieutenant, vice John Trotter.

6th reg. of dragoons: Lieut. Edward Winn, from halfpay, to be Lieutenant, vice Naſſau Smith.

1ſt reg. of foot guards: Lt-Col. John Byng to be Captain of a company, vice William Fleming.

Ditto: Capt. Michael Cox to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice John Byng.

Ditto: Enſ. Thomas Dowdeſwell to be Lieutenant, vice Michael Cox.

Ditto: ——— Maitland, Gent. to be Enſign, vice Thomas Dowdeſwell.

Ditto: Enſign ——— Finch to be Lieutenant, vice Charles Frederick.

1ſt reg. of foot, 1ſt batt.: Enſ. Charles Boyd to be Lieutenant, vice Robert Arbuthnott.

Ditto, 2d batt.: James MacGregor, Gent. to be Enſign, vice James Graham.

[*To be continued.*]

Prices of grain at Haddington, June 7. 1776.

	Beſt.	*Second.*	*Third.*
Wheat,	19s. 0d.	18s. 2d.	16s. 8d.
Bear,	14s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	12s. 3d.
Oats,	10s. 0d.	9s. 0d.	8s. 6d.
Peaſe,	10s. 3d.	9s. 6d.	8s. 9d.

Edinburgh, June 21. 1776. Oat-meal, 9 d. 2 f. Bear-meal, 6 d. 2 f. Peaſe-meal, 6 d. 2 f.

The Edinburgh bill of burials for May 1776.

Within the city	Males 25	44	80.	Dec. 2.
	Fem. 19			
In the Weſt-kirk-yard	Males 18	36		
	Fem. 18			

Ages.			No	Diſeaſes.	No
Under		2	33	Aged ———	8
Between	2 &	5	6	Aſthma —	2
	5 &	10	4	Childbed —	2
	10 &	20	3	Chincough —	9
	20 &	30	2	Conſumption —	24
	30 &	40	7	Fever —	12
	40 &	50	8	Small pox —	9
	50 &	60	4	Stillborn —	5
	60 &	70	7	Suddenly —	2
	70 &	80	3	Teething —	7
	80 &	90	2		
	90 &	100	1		